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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : C12N 15/82, 15/84		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/13503
			(43) International Publication Date: 2 April 1998 (02.04.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU97/00625		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 23 September 1997 (23.09.97)			
(30) Priority Data: 08/717,971 23 September 1996 (23.09.96) US PO 2756 4 October 1996 (04.10.96) AU PO 5092 13 February 1997 (13.02.97) AU 08/804,879 24 February 1997 (24.02.97) US			
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(54) Title: A PLANT AND METHOD OF MODIFICATION

(57) Abstract

A method of modifying a plant to increase vegetative growth of commercially valuable plant structures at the expense of non-essential and non-commercial structures is provided. From reproductive tissues of both *Pinus radiata* and *Eucalyptus grandis*, cDNA were isolated corresponding to genes which were specifically expressed during early development in both male and female plant structures. The promoter regions to these genes were isolated from respective genomic DNAs and fused to a structural gene for a bacterial ribonuclease, Bamase. In a variation of the method, an expression control system was used to control promoter leakage. Gene constructs were also prepared which expressed anti-sense forms of essential MADS box genes for these plants. Candidate gene constructs were used to transform shoot-forming tissues of target eucalypt and pine species. Explants from successful transformants were assessed for incorporation of the gene constructs and production of sterile plants.

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A PLANT AND METHOD OF MODIFICATION

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of Application Ser. No.08/717971, a continuation of Ser. No.08/384208 (ABANDONED) filed 3 February, 1995, which was a continuation-in-part of Application Ser. No.08/210730 (ABANDONED) filed 18 March, 1994, which was a continuation-in-part of Application Ser. No.08/039419 (ABANDONED) filed 15 April, 1993, being the United States National Phase of PCT/AU91/00445 filed 26 September, 1991.

10 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to new plants and methods of modification thereof.

This invention has particular but not exclusive application to forestry and increasing the productive capacity of trees, and for illustrative purposes reference will be made to such application. However, it is to be understood that this invention could be used in other applications, such as the modification of other plants such as certain leafy food crops to increase the production of useful parts thereof.

20 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is well recognized that the useful structures of domestic and commercial plants are in competition in the plant with other non-essential structures for growth resources such as water, nutrients and photosynthesis products. For example, the development of reproductive structures on forest trees represents a significant burden on the resources of the trees, the reproductive effort occurring at the expense of vegetative growth. The extent of the effect of reproductive burden on vegetative growth may be estimated by measuring the proportion of photo-assimilate which is directed to flowers and fruits, or strobili and cone growth for gymnosperms. In conifers,

reproductive effort is variously estimated to be up to 16% of annual photosynthate. The formation of reproductive structures imposes a burden on the tree beyond that of carbon allocation. First, these structures have very large requirements for important nutrients at the expense of vegetative tissues so that, at least under conditions of nutrient deficiency, prevention of reproductive structure formations as proposed can lead to a greater increment in vegetative growth than the corresponding mass of reproductive structure otherwise formed.

Nutrient losses from pollen dispersal are not inconsiderable in most forest plantations, with an estimated annual production of 370 kg/ha of nutrient-rich pollen by Pinus radiata plantations. Tree crop productivity of P. radiata is as yet only about 50% of that theoretically obtainable on the basis of incident solar radiation. Therefore, in many environments, there are good prospects for significant increase in harvest yield from trees which have been inhibited from producing reproductive structures.

It is noted that there is a deleterious effect in at least P. radiata on the value of timber caused by persistent stem cones, and research has been advocated for methods for chemically inducing cone abscission in species such as P. radiata. However, it is clear that means involving chemical treatment of forest trees will involve considerable expense in manufacture and application, this cost being exacerbated in certain circumstances where environmental factors both preclude indiscriminate broadcast of such chemicals and insist on strict control of run off.

Seeds from mature trees will produce an undergrowth of saplings which must be removed periodically to prevent competition with the tree crop for soil resources and to minimize

the risk of damaging fire. This sapling removal is labour intensive, time consuming and accordingly expensive, adding considerably to the production cost of farmed forest timber. Trees and other plants may form reproductive structures at their apical meristem, leading to unwanted termination of vegetative growth at this apice. Such terminal flowering may effect the form of trees, with heavier branching which reduce the quantity and value of harvestable timber if the trees did not continue to grow vegetatively.

US Patent No. 5122466 discloses the transformation of Loblolly pine by bombardment with microprojectiles carrying an expression cassette to yield transformants. The disclosure provides a method establishing that a plasmid bearing a functional gene construct can successfully transform plant cells. However, the disclosure does not provide for inducing sterility in plants.

Koltunow et al. (The Plant Cell, Vol2, 1201-1224) discloses methods of inducing male sterility in plants by expression of a lethal gene (Barnase) in plant stamen cells (tapetal). A chimeric gene comprising the Barnase gene inserted into and under the expression control of the TA29 gene of tobacco, a gene established to be specifically expressed in tapetal tissue. The disclosure relates to the induction of sterility only, but does not overcome the problem of plants developing reproductive structures at the expense of vegetative growth.

The present invention aims to alleviate the above disadvantages and to provide plants of enhanced productive capacity and methods for the production thereof which will be reliable and efficient in use. Other objects and advantages of this invention will hereinafter become apparent.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

With the foregoing and other objects in view, this invention in one aspect resides broadly in a method of enhancing vegetative growth in a plant including the steps of:-

5 identifying a gene having a substantially tissue-specific promoter expressing during the development of both male and female plant reproductive structures;

constructing an expression cassette comprising a heterologous coding region capable of expressing a product which  
10 aborts said development under the expression control of said promoter;

transforming plant cells with said expression cassette, and selecting and vegetatively propagating the transformants.

Preferably, the non essential structure is selected from the  
15 reproductive structures of plants which are economically capable of artificial vegetative propagation. Preferably, the plant selected is a tree for timber, pulp or fibre production wherein poor or absent expression of reproductive structures may result in increase in vegetative growth of the valuable material.

20 A large number of genes are differentially expressed between sexual and vegetative buds. Accordingly, it is preferred that the gene be selected from those specific to sexual budding, specific to the production of other sexual structures, or specifically coding for a product essential in a developmental  
25 pathway for a reproductive structure. The gene is preferably selected for its early expression, specifically in the developing reproductive tissues.

For example, five cone-specific genes displaying strong  
homology to *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Anthirrhinum majus* floral  
30 meristem and organ identity genes have been identified in *P.radiata* cDNA library prepared from immature female and male



cones. Three of them, PrMADS1, 2 and 3, belong to the family of MADS-box genes showing homology to *Arabidopsis* AGL-2, AGL-4 and AGL6 genes and dall gene from another non-angiosperm, *Picea abies* (Norway spruce), respectively. The PrFL1 gene is the pine ortholog of *Arabidopsis* Leafy (Lfy) and Floricaula (Flo) gene from *Antirrhinum*. The PrCon1 shows strong homology to *Arabidopsis* CONSTANS (CO) gene. A significantly lower level of expression was detected in vegetative tissues: vegetative buds, needles, stem and roots. In situ hybridisation showed that expression of these genes is substantially detectable only in reproductive tissue cells.

Expression analysis has revealed that all five genes show different patterns of expression in different stages of development of male and female cones. PrMADS1, 2 and 3 genes are cone-specific in that expression of both genes was substantially restricted to reproductive organ primordium tissues. No detectable expression of these genes was observed in vegetative tissues such as vegetative buds, needles, stems, roots. For PrFL1 and PrCon1 low detectable expression was observed in vegetative buds.

In reproductive organs low level of expression of both genes was detected at early stages of cone development (5 mg cones) which was increased during a cones development (50 mg cones). In male cones expression of both genes was restricted to microsporangium containing primary sporogenous cells. In female cones expression of both genes was restricted to premature ovules.

In a further example, MADS-box genes of *Eucalyptus* spp. have been identified as having the reproductive organ specificity required of the present invention and identified hereinafter as genes EGM1, 2 and 3 respectively, gene EGM3 being highly specific

for reproductive primordia.

Preferably, the gene is identified in cDNA libraries prepared from mRNA isolated from reproductive tissues and selected by differential screening against mRNA of vegetative structures. Since the biochemical pathways for vegetative buds and developing reproductive structures may include common expression products and consequently similar mRNAs, it is preferred to differentially screen cDNA libraries against vegetative bud mRNA, with or without preceding enrichment of the cDNA for genes specifically expressed in reproductive tissues. The selected gene may be any which when its expression is blocked or otherwise made ineffectual, results in the failure to produce a non essential plant structure.

Alternatively, the cDNAs may be utilized as probes to select corresponding genomic clones from genomic libraries. The genomic clones may be used to isolate and identify gene promoters that specifically express genes unique to reproductive structures. Such promoters can then be combined with lethal genes which when expressed will inhibit or terminate growth of the cells within which the lethal gene is expressed. The promoter-gene fusions when stably incorporated into a plant, by any suitable known means, will result in failure to develop reproductive tissues in whole or in part.

Candidate cDNA clones may be raised and are preferably selected for the presence of genes expressed in both male and female buds. The selection may be directed to those genes which are naturally produced or those which are induced by plant growth regulators which promote flowering, such as various gibberellins. Preferably, the specific expression in floral tissues is confirmed using an in situ RNA hybridization procedure with a wide range of different plant tissues.

The preferred cDNA clones are those further selected for the characteristics of early appearance and highly specific expression.

5 The modification of the identified gene may be by fusing the tissue-specific promoter of said gene with a structural gene for a deleterious or lethal product such that regenerated plants transformed with said gene-fusion will not form said non-essential structure. Alternatively, a critical function of said gene may be disrupted or modified by expression of the modified  
10 gene in transformed plants.

The modified gene is preferably introduced into a plant normally containing the identified gene such that a critical function of the identified gene is disrupted or modified. However, it is also envisaged that introduction of the modified  
15 gene into plants not containing the specifically identified gene may result in useful reduction or elimination of a non-essential plant structure, particularly where the gene selected has analogues represented across several species, or in closely related species where the corresponding gene is essentially  
20 homologous with the gene in question.

Modification of the gene may be achieved by any suitable means, with the expression strategy desired being the primary arbiter of the modification process utilized. For example, it may be intended to constitutively express an antisense or perhaps  
25 ribozyme version of a gene which is critical to development of reproductive structures, so that the normal gene action is disrupted and vegetative development occurs instead. The method may be to splice a promoter specific to a reproductive structure with a lethal gene which codes for an expression product which  
30 will cause abortion of the tissue in which it is produced, for example, buds that differentiate as reproductive structures.

Genes expressing antisense RNA against the mRNA coded by each of the selected target genes may be constructed. These and shorter RNA sequences that bind to the initiation regions of the target mRNA may be used for inhibition of translation. Of course, other critical regions apart from the translation initiation site may be targeted for binding of antisense RNA.

One option is to use an antisense or ribozyme version of a critical house-keeping gene, such as the actin gene or a gene coding for an enzyme of aromatic amino acid biosynthesis, for example enolpyruvyl shikimate phosphate synthase. Alternatively, a deleterious enzyme such as a protease, ribonuclease, or deoxyribonuclease may be encoded for biosynthesis under control of a sexual promoter or any promoter specifically expressed in a non essential structure.

One difficulty with the tissue ablation approach is the effect of promoter leakage or expression in other tissues. Accordingly, where the promoter controlling the heterologous coding region in expression is merely substantially tissue specific, any residual leakage is preferably overcome by modification of the expression cassette to include appropriate leakage control. For example, to overcome leakage a second copy of the substantially tissue specific promoter, or a second tissue specific promoter, may be used to promote a gene producing a control product capable of switching on production of an inhibitor to the lethal gene product in non target tissues. One example of this approach is to construct an expression cassette including a control system (gene cascade) whereby expression of a lethal gene(s) is countered in non-target tissues, such as cassettes carrying both Barnase and Barstar where Barstar is under the constitutive control of a promoter responsive to repressor *lacIq*, itself promoted by a second copy of the selected

tissue specific promoter.

In the case of *Eucalyptus* transformation and regeneration, there are particular features of the species which have required the development of specific transformation protocols. Accordingly, in a further aspect this invention relates to a novel method for *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of *Eucalyptus* shoot and seedling explant tissue and regeneration of plants. *Eucalyptus* species are known for their fast growth and high biomass productivity. They are grown in commercial forestry plantations around the world. Reforestation, the controlled regeneration of forests, has become an integral part of forest management in order to secure a renewable and sustainable source of raw material for production of paper and other wood-related products. Forest trees can be regenerated by either sexual or asexual propagation. Sexual reproduction of seedlings for reforestation has traditionally been the most important means of propagation. Regeneration by seed usually results in highly variable progeny. On the other hand, vegetatively propagated clonal planting stock have a number of potential benefits including uniformity in quality and growth.

*Eucalypts* are primarily native trees to Australia with a small number of exceptions in the Asian region. However, they are now widely grown around the world. Several species of *Eucalyptus* are fast growing trees of importance for timber and paper pulp industries. Genetic improvement of eucalypts, as of other trees, is difficult with traditional breeding because of the constraint imposed by long developmental cycles.

During the last two decades, substantial progress has been made in genetic engineering of plants. However, progress in the application of biotechnology to trees has been slow and there have been only a few reports concerning *Eucalyptus* (Teulieres et

al., 1994). Assessment of these reports is difficult as the technical details of these reports are generally not available. However, these studies have concentrated on the good regeneration properties of *E. camaldulensis* seedling explant tissue. The main difficulties for *Eucalyptus* transformation appeared to be in establishment of suitable regeneration systems as well as the low transformation frequencies. Biolistic bombardment has been tested as an alternative to *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation, although transient expression was observed (Rocharge et al., 1995), transformed *Eucalyptus* plants were not regenerated. Extensive work has been performed on transformation through electroporation of protoplasts (Teulieres et al., 1994). However, there has been only one report concerning successful transformation of *Eucalyptus* protoplasts (Kawasu et al., 1991). There are no reports on the transformation and regeneration of *Eucalyptus* shoot material. Shoot explants are generally used for the micropropagation of elite clones.

There is an urgent need to increase the quantity and quality of fast growing timbers in the future and the micropropagation of elite transgenic *Eucalyptus* can play a significant role.

It is therefore, desirable to provide a method for the introduction of genes into *Eucalyptus* species for mass production of clones of genetically modified and improved trees. It is further desirable to provide a multistage regeneration protocol which can be utilised effectively on *Eucalyptus* species to produce large quantities of plants for field planting. It is further desirable to provide a progression of steps which, in combination, provide a method for transformation and regeneration of diverse genotypes and species of *Eucalyptus* and *Eucalyptus* interspecies hybrids. In addition, it is desirable to combine gains from conventional genetic testing and breeding with

molecular genetic improvement to produce a high value-added *Eucalyptus* plant.

These objects and others are addressed by the present invention, which is designed to produce elite *Eucalyptus* plants. These objectives are achieved by a multi-step method for the regeneration of *Eucalyptus* plants. Although other transformation and regeneration protocols have been published, none of these methods have proven totally effective with the *Eucalyptus* species in that none enabled the practitioner to reliably proceed from the beginning step of shoot explant transformation to completion of the regeneration process resulting in establishment of plants in field conditions. The present protocols provide such a multi-step method for *Eucalyptus* plants. It incorporates two key steps. The first is keeping the shoot explant intact and upright during the co-cultivation step with *Agrobacterium* so that the leaves do not touch the tissue culture medium. The second key step is the incorporation of a liquid culture selection stage. This liquid culture selection step is only effective once regenerated shoots have been produced on solid medium. Shoot material grew faster in liquid medium and formed more shoots when compared to shoots grown on solid medium. This liquid selection step has the advantages of reducing false positives by increasing selection pressure, reducing residual *Agrobacterium* and increasing the amount of shoot tissue compared to solid grown cultures.

Typically, the process may proceed according to the following steps:

1. The *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of *Eucalyptus* explant material with DNA. The source of the explant material may be from seedlings or micropropagated clonal plant tissue.

2. The *Agrobacterium* and explant are co-cultivated. In the case of shoot explants, the shoots are kept upright in the

solidified medium so that the leaves are not in physical contact with the medium.

3. The explants are then transferred to medium containing an antibiotic which kills the *Agrobacterium*. This selection is maintained for the remainder of the plant regeneration procedure.

4. The explants are then transferred to callus induction medium containing a selective agent which only allows the growth of tissue containing the introduced DNA. This selection is also maintained for the remainder of the plant regeneration procedure.

5. The explants are then transferred to shoot induction medium.

6. The regenerated shoots are then put into in liquid culture.

7. Surviving shoots and callus are transferred to solid medium.

8. Putative transformed shoots are assayed for presence of the introduced DNA.

9. Transgenic shoot material is then transferred to root induction medium.

10. After root elongation and development, the plantlets are transferred to soil or other growing medium in a container where root development and acclimatisation (gradually lowering relative humidity) continue.

12. Clones can be micropropagated by tissue culture propagation techniques and grown into trees of a size and form suitable for planting.

There are several advantages inherent with the use of this novel method. For example, the method is well suited for large-scale production of clones of genetically modified and



improved *Eucalyptus*. The present processes also provides a reliable multi-step regeneration method for the recalcitrant *Eucalyptus* species. It is the combined application of the progression of steps in this novel multi-step method that has enabled the first successful field planting of many different genotypes of *Eucalyptus*.

Apart from the use of infective agents such as *Agrobacterium* for transformation of pines and eucalypts, it has now been determined that new protocols for transformation by biolistic bombardment are useful for pines. Transformation of conifers generally requires embryogenic cultures as target cells. The advantage of using such cultures is that they offer a uniform and fast growing population of cells which can develop into embryoids from single cells.

It has now been determined that transformation of pine and particularly *Pinus radiata* can be achieved using mature embryos and shoot forming callus as targets.

Using the observation that the shoot meristem of pine is different from its counterpart of dicots and monocots in that it does not have a multiple layer structure and is comprised of a single type of meristematic cell capable of dividing in any direction so as to form a meristematic mass, it has been established that biolistic bombardment is a realistic alternative transformation strategy for such species. Shoot forming callus of pine has a similar structure to shoot meristem and is amenable to this manner of transformation also.

In the light of the foregoing, there has been established a tissue culture system which regenerates shoots from mature embryos of *radiata* pine at a consistently high frequency. Shoot forming callus may be induced from shoot tips and bases

containing V1-promoters;

FIG 21A is a diagrammatic illustration of plasmid 7 from Barstar comprising a promoter and barstar fragment cloned into pGem3zf (Promega);

5 FIG 22 is a diagrammatic illustration of plasmid containing V2-promoters;

FIG 24 is a Northern blot of total RNA extracted from Eucalypt tissue probed with the EGM2 cDNA (3 day exposure);

10 FIG 25 is a graphical representation of Northern blot of total RNA extracted from Eucalypt tissue probed with the EGM2 and EGM3 cDNA respectively (6 hour exposure);

FIG 26 is a Northern blot of total RNA extracted from Eucalypt tissue probed with the EGM3 cDNA (6 hour exposure);

FIG 28 is the nucleotide sequence of the EGM1 promoter;

15 FIG 28A is a diagrammatic illustration of the EGM1 promoter;

FIG 29 is the nucleotide sequence of the EGM3 promoter;

FIG 29A is a diagrammatic representation of the EGM3 promoter;

20 FIG 29B is the nucleotide sequence of the EGM3 promoter;

FIG 30 is the nucleotide sequence of the EGM2 promoter;

FIG 30A is a diagrammatic representation of the EGM2 promoter;

25 FIG 31 is a diagrammatic representation of agarose separation of a *Pst*I digest of an EGM3 double bin. Given that the *Eco*RI cloning site is at base 6772 in EGM3 bin, the predicted fragment sizes from the map for this digestion are 4.9, 4.8, 4.4, 3.3, 1.9, 1.1, and 0.6 kb;

30 FIG 32 is a diagrammatic representation of two gel exposures of a *Pst*I digest of an EGM3 bin showing the other possible orientations of the cloned insert. The sizes of fragments expected from this digest are 7.4, 4.9, 4.4, 1.1, 0.7, and 0.6 kb;

FIG 33 is a plasmid diagram of EGM3 double bin wherein the 35 illustrated fragment is cloned in both orientations;

FIG 34 is a plasmid diagram of EGM3 V1 sense;

FIG 35 is a plasmid diagram of plasmid V1 (Barnase-

Barstar);

FIG 36 is a plasmid diagram of pBR Barnase;

FIG 37 is a plasmid diagram of plasmid V2 (LacIqNLS-35S promoterOp-Barstar);

5 FIG 38 is a plasmid diagram of p35Sop Barstar E-2;

FIG 39 is a plasmid diagram of p35Sop Barstar, and serves also to represent 35Sop Barstar E, which is the same plasmid with the EcoRI site at base508 removed;

FIG 40 is a plasmid diagram of pBRLac;

10 FIG 41 is a plasmid diagram of pBRGUS 1;

FIG 42 is a plasmid diagram of pBRGUS 2;

FIG 43 is a plasmid diagram of Bin 19+EGM3 V1 sense (Orientation 2 as described in the following description of embodiments);

15 FIG 44 is a plasmid diagram of EGM3 V2 sense;

FIG 45 is a plasmid diagram of plasmid pBRLacBH-;

FIG 46 is an illustration of Arabidopsis (FB.13L30) transformed with an antisense PrMADS1 gene compared with a control plant; and

20 FIG 47 is a diagrammatic representation of the directed development strategy resulting in the transformed Arabidopsis of FIG 46.

#### EXAMPLE 1

Isolation of cone-specific genes from *P. radiata*

25 Five cone-specific genes displaying strong homology to

*Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Anthirrhinum majus* floral meristem and organ identity genes were isolated from *P.radiata* cDNA library prepared from immature female and male cones. Three of them, PrMADS1, 2 and 3, belong to the family of MADS-box genes showing homology to *Arabidopsis* AGL-2, AGL-4 and AGL6 genes and dall gene from another non-angiosperm, *Picea abies* (Norway spruce), respectively. The PrFL1 gene is the pine ortholog of *Arabidopsis* Leafy (Lfy) and Floricaula (Flo) gene from *Anthirrhinum*. The PrCon1 shows strong homology to *Arabidopsis* CONSTANS (co) gene. To elucidate the function of these genes the approach of characterising their expression pattern in male and female cones during different stages of cone development was taken.

A significantly lower level of expression was detected in vegetative tissues: vegetative buds, needles, stem and roots. In situ hybridisation showed that expression of these genes is substantially detectable only in reproductive tissue cells.

Expression analysis revealed that all five genes show different patterns of expression in different stages of development of male and female cones (Figs. 1-5). PrMADS1, 2 and 3 genes are cone-specific: expression of both genes was restricted to reproductive organ primordia tissues. No detectable expression of these genes was observed in vegetative tissues: vegetative buds, needles, stems, roots. For PrFL1 and PrCon1 low detectable expression was observed in vegetative buds.

In reproductive organs low level of expression of both genes was detected at early stages of cone development (5 mg cones) which was increased during a cones development (50 mg cones). In male cones expression of both genes was restricted to microsporangia containing primary sporogenous cells. In female cones expression of both genes was restricted to premature ovules.

To characterise MADS proteins as DNA-binding proteins in

vitro, we expressed both proteins in *E.coli* and characterised  
 their DNA-binding properties. PrMADS1,2,3 proteins are sequence-  
 specific DNA-binding proteins. Their DNA-binding consensus  
 sequence is similar to that of the AGAMOUS protein. All three  
 5 proteins bind a DNA sequence matching the consensus sequence of  
 CARG box TT(A/T)CC(A/T)(A/t)<sub>2</sub>(T/A)NNGG(-G)(A/T)<sub>2</sub> (oligo A) for  
 PrMADS1 and PrMADS2) (Fig.6). Mutation of these consensus  
 sequences (oligo B) significantly decreases their binding of  
 PrMADS 1,2, or 3 proteins. Competition with non-radioactive  
 10 oligos did not decrease binding of any of the proteins to the CARG  
 consensus. This indicates that we are dealing with specific DNA-  
 protein interactions.

### EXAMPLE 2

#### Isolation of promoter sequences of PrMADS2,3 and PrFL1 genes

15 Upstream sequences were isolated using a 'Promoter finder'  
 strategy (Fig.7). A special adaptor was ligated to the ends of DNA  
 fragments generated by digestion of genomic DNA from *P. radiata* with  
 EcoRV, ScaI, DraI, PvuII and SspI separately. The enzymes used were  
 selected because they have six-base recognition sites and generate  
 blunt ends. Following adaptor ligation, these DNA fragments were  
 used as a template for PCR using first adaptor primers AP1, AP2 and  
 gene-specific primers GSP-1,2.

25 The sequences of adaptor (first sequence), adaptor-primers, and  
 polymerase blocking primer are shown below. It is noted that adaptor  
 primer AP1 corresponds to bases 1 to 22 of the adaptor, adaptor primer  
 AP2 corresponds to bases 13 to 31, and the polymerase block  
 corresponds to bases 41 to 48.

Adaptor: 5'GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCACGCGTGGTTCGACGGCCCGGGCTGGT-3'

Polymerase block: 3'-NH<sub>2</sub>-CCCGACCA-P0,-5'

Adaptor primer 1 (AP1): 5'-GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGC-3'

Adaptor primer 2 (AP2): 5'-ACTATAGGGCACGCGTGGT-3'

5 The presence of the amine group on the 3' end of the lower strand blocks polymerase catalysed extension from free adaptor molecules that have not been ligated, thus preventing the generation of the primer binding site unless a defined, gene specific primer extends a DNA strand opposite the upper strand of the adaptor.

10 Primary PCR was performed using Advantage Tth Polymerase Mix (Clontech) and adaptor primer AP1 and GSP-1 for PrMADS2,3 and PrFL1 genes.

GSP-1 sequences:

PrMADS2: 5' CGGCGCTTCCGAACTCATAGAGTTTTCCTC 3'

PrMADS3: 5' TTAGCGCCACTTCGGCATCGCACAGC 3'

PrFL1: 5' CAAGGGACTTCAAATCCTTCTCCCATTCATGG 3'.

15 PCR two step cycle parameters:

7 cycles:	94°C	25 sec
	72°C	4 min
32 cycles:	94°C	25 sec
	67°C	4 min

20 67°C for an additional 4 min after the final cycle.

The 1 ml of primary PCR was used in secondary PCR using the same cycling parameters and a second set of GSP primers with AP2 adaptor-primer.

**SaII primers:**

PrMADS2 promoter:

**Forward primer:**

5' CCGGTCGACGAATTCGACAGTGGAGTCCACAAAGAAAGATGCG3'  
5                      SaII                      EcoRI

**Reverse primer:** 5' CCGGTCGACTTCTTTCCTTCTTTTCTTCTGC 3'

SaII

PrMADS3 promoter:

**Forward primer:** 5' ACGCGTCGACGAATTCAAGATTTCAAATCAGTCC 3'  
10                                      SaII   EcoRI

**Reverse primer:** 5' ACGCGTCGACCAAGATCCCTCTGCTTCTTCACC 3'

SaII

PrFLI promoter:

**Forward primer:** 5' ACGCGTCGACGAATTCGAACTTCTGGAATAAGCTGC 3'  
15                                      SaII   EcoRI

**Reverse primer:** 5' ACGCGTCGACTTCATCTTACGTCACGCGAGG 3'

SaII

**EcoRI primers:**

PrMADS2 promoter:

20 **Forward primer:**

5' CCGGAATTCGTCGACCGACAGTGGAGTCCACAAAGAAAGATGCG3'

EcoRI SaII

Reverse primer: 5' CCGGAATTCTTCTTTCTTCTTTCTTCTGC 3'

EcoRI

PrMADS3 promoter:

Forward primer: 5' CGGAATTCGTCGACAAGATTTCAAATCAGTCC 3'

5 EcoRI Sali

Reverse primer: 5' GCGAATTCGAAGATCCCTCTGCTTCTTCACC 3'

EcoRI

PrFLI promoter:

Forward primer: 5' CGGAATTCGTCGACGAACTTCTGGAATAAGCTGC 3'

10 EcoRI Sali

Reverse primer: 5' GCGAATTCCTTCATCTTACGTCACGCGAGG 3'

EcoRI

15 PCR fragments of Sali primers were digested with Sali restriction enzyme and introduced into the V1 vector digested with Sali. The orientation of promoters was checked using digestion with EcoRI enzyme.

20 PCR fragments of EcoRI primers were digested with EcoRI restriction enzyme and introduced into the V1 vector digested with EcoRI. The orientation of promoters was checked using digestion with Sali enzyme. Maps of the resulting plasmids are shown in Figs. 21 and 22.

25 These vectors were linearised with HindIII enzyme and introduced into the Bin19 binary vector digested with HindIII. Colonies carrying modified Bin 19 vectors were selected on plates with kanamycin and ampicillin antibiotics. As a next step Bin19-V1-promoter and Bin19 V2-promoter vectors were transformed into several



*Agrobacterium* strains. *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Pinus radiata* embryos and explants were co-transformed with *Agrobacterium* strains.

#### EXAMPLE 4

##### 5 Plasmid construction for lethal gene constructs

The HindIII fragment from the plasmid pRT 99 gus (Töpfer et al. Nucleic Acids Research (1988) 16 (17): 8725) was cloned into the HindIII site of pBR 322. This insertion resulted in two plasmids corresponding to the insert being cloned in both  
10 orientations. The inserted region contains the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV) 35S RNA promoter, beta glucoronidase (GUS) gene, and CaMV 35S terminator region. These plasmids were called pBrGUS1 and pBrGUS2 and provided the basis for the lethal gene constructs. The orientation of the insertion event was checked with a BamHI  
15 digest. PBRGUS 2 results in BamHI fragments of 2.5kb and 4.4kb, pBRGUS 1 in fragments of 6.1kb and 0.8kb.

The DNA encoding the lacIq nuclear localisation signal peptide was amplified from the plasmid pGEM lacIqNLS by PCR using the 5' primer Lac I (this has an EcoRI site) and the 3' primer D23 which has a KpnI site. The amplified DNA fragment was restricted with EcoRI and KpnI and cloned into pBRGUS 2 cut with the same enzymes. The resulting plasmid was called pBRLac. The pBRLac plasmid was then cut with SphI and run on an agarose gel to allow the purification of the plasmid fragment containing the LacIq  
25 gene, Ampicillin resistance gene, and origin of replication away from the small SphI fragment, which contained restriction sites that we wished to remove. The resulting plasmid was called pBRLacSH-.

The second stage in the plasmid construction was the  
30 preparation for cloning of the Barstar gene under the regulation

of the modified CamV plus lac operator promoter. This was amplified from the plasmid p35S-op-Barstar EcoRI- which contained the promoter/gene sequence which had been modified to remove the EcoRI site between the promoter and coding sequence. This modification was accomplished by cutting the 35S-op-Barstar plasmid with EcoRI, carrying out a blunting reaction with T4 DNA polymerase, and then religating the blunted plasmid. The PCR was carried out using the 5' primer pQE-F and the 3' primer Bar-3'. The PCR fragment was cut with XhoI and KpnI. This was cloned into the 35S-op-Barstar EcoRI- plasmid also cut with XhoI and KpnI, and from which the unwanted gene had been purified away by gel electrophoresis. This enabled the removal of restriction sites at the three prime end of the Barstar coding region. This plasmid was called p35S-op-Barstar EcoRI- 2.

The Barstar gene was then cut out of the p35S-op-Barstar EcoRI- 2 plasmid with XhoI and SalI and cloned into pBRLac BH- cut with SalI. The Barstar gene could go into the SalI site in either orientation but only one orientation was found. The orientation of the insert was ascertained by a KpnI digest. Only a 1kb band was seen which was indicative of the orientation of the insert seen in plasmid pBRLac Op Barstar 1. The resulting plasmid was called V2.

The plasmid was then ready for the cloning of, in this case, a flower specific promoter, into the unique EcoRI cloning site 5 prime of the lacIq gene. The EGM3 promoter from the Eucalyptus MADS gene EGM3 was used for this purpose. This was cut from plasmid pEGM3 with EcoRI. This promoter was cloned in both orientations, and the resulting plasmids were called V2 EGM3 sense and V2 EGM3 antisense. The plasmid V2 EGM3 sense was used as a source the EGM3 regulated lacIq and CamVop Barstar genes for the plant transformation vector. The orientation of the EGM3 promoter

was determined by an XbaI PstI digest. The presence of a 2.3 and 0.9 kb band was indicative of the correct orientation.

The second construct V1, containing the promoterless Barnase gene, was constructed using pBRGUS 2 as the starting point. A Barnase gene was amplified from genomic *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* using the primers Barnase 5 prime Sal, and Barnase 3 prime Kpn. The resulting PCR product was restricted with Kpn I and Sal I as was pBRGUS 1 and a ligation reaction performed. The plasmids from the resulting colonies were used as templates for sequencing using the amplification primers. Plasmid SB4 was found to contain a Barnase fragment of the same sequence as the *B. amyloliquefaciens* Barnase gene and this was called pBRBarnase and this was used for further constructions.

Previous work using Barnase as a lethal gene in plants had shown that the anti-toxin gene for Barstar was required to be present and expressed from the same plasmid as the Barnase before a promoter region could be cloned 5 prime of the Barnase gene (Paul et al. 1992 Plant Molecular Biology 19: 611-622). This was achieved by using a plasmid that contained the Barstar gene and promoter from *B. amyloliquefaciens* in cis with the Barnase sequence. To this end the promoter plus Barstar DNA region was amplified from the *B. amyloliquefaciens* genomic DNA using primers 5 prime Barstar promoter and Bar 3 prime. The PCR fragment was restricted with KpnI as was pGEM 3f and a ligation reaction performed. The resulting white colonies were screened for inserts. The DNA from colony 7 was used for sequencing and found to contain the Barstar promoter plus Barstar sequence as in the genomic *B. amyloliquefaciens* DNA. This plasmid was call 7 prom Barstar, as shown in Fig 21A.

The 7 prom Barstar plasmid was restricted with Kpn I as was pBRBarnase and the Promoter Barstar fragment was cloned into the

Kpn I site of the pBRBarnase DNA. This resulted in a plasmid known as V1. The EGM3 promoter was cut out of pEGM3 using EcoRI, blunted using DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment) and cloned into the unique SalI cloning site of the V1 DNA which had also been  
5 restricted and blunted. The resulting plasmid with the promoter inserted in the correct orientation was called EGM3 V1 sense.

The EGM3 V1 sense DNA was linearised with HindIII and cloned into the plant transformation vector Bin19 also linearised with HindIII. This resulted in two plasmids, EGM3 V1 Bin 1 and 2,  
10 corresponding to the two orientations of insertion. In orientation 2, the two EcoRI sites present in EGM3 V1 Bin are approximately 80 bp apart. The EGM3 V1 Bin 2 was cut with EcoRI and blunted using DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment). The EGM3 promoter lacIq gene, and the CaMV 35S op Barstar genes were cut  
15 out of EGM3 V2 sense using AatII and HindIII. This fragment was also blunted and ligated into the EcoRI cut and blunted EGM3 V1 Bin 2 to create the plasmids EGM3 Double Bin I and II, again corresponding to the two possible orientations. These plasmids were used for transformation of plasmids.

20 The procedure was then repeated with further Eucalyptus MADS promoters. These were EGM2 long and short, and a shorter version of EGM3.

#### Primers.

Barnase 5 prime Sal

25 5' CCGTCGACATGGCACAGGTTATCAA 3'

SalI

Barnase 3 prime Kpn

5' CGGGTACCTTATCTGATTTTGTAAAGG 3'

KpnI

27

Five prime Barstar promoter

5' CCGGTACCGTCCAATCTGCAGCCGTCCGA 3'

KpnI

Bar 3'

5' GCGGTACCTTAAGAAAGTATGATGGTG 3'

KpnI

D23

5' CCGGTACCTATCTCCTATTTCCCCCAGG 3'

KpnI

10 pQE-F

5' GCGTATCACGAGGCCCTTTC 3'

LacI

5' GCGAATTCAACATGGAACCAGTAACGTTATA 3'

EcoRI

15 EXAMPLE 5

Expression of the three *Eucalyptus* MADS-box genes in a range of tissues within two *Eucalyptus* species

Northern blots were performed on a range of tissues in order to determine the tissue specificity of the expression of the three EGM MADS-box genes. Tissue used for isolation of RNA from roots, seedlings, stems, shoots, leaves and mature flowers was obtained from *Eucalyptus grandis* plants. Tissue for isolation of RNA from floral tissues including receptacles, petals, stamens, carpels, and styles was collected from *E. globulus* flowers. This species was used because it produces very large flowers, making collection of sufficient amounts of RNA much easier. Ten micrograms of total

RNA was used in the blots which included the different floral tissues and 20 micrograms was used in blots of *E. grandis* RNA which included the vegetative tissue. Blots were probed with the three EGM genes which had been digested with the appropriate restriction enzymes to remove the MADS-box.

The northern blots indicated that all three EGM genes are expressed at a high level in eucalypt flowers. When northern blots are exposed to film for long periods, weak expression of the EGM2 and EGM1 genes was detected in floral tissue. The EGM3 gene was specifically expressed in vegetative tissue. Within the flower, the EGM2 gene was observed to be expressed in stamens and petals. The EGM3 gene is expressed in receptacles, petals, stamens, carpels and styles.

#### EXAMPLE 6

##### DIRECTED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

This strategy involves the expression of an antisense version of a gene critical to the development of reproductive structures so that vegetative development occurs instead.

The MADS-box region of PrMADS1 gene was fused in the frame to the amino end of GUS reporter gene's coding region in sense and antisense orientations (Fig. 47). Constitutive expression of these genes will lead to high level of accumulation of the corresponding products in cytoplasm and nucleus. Accumulation of the fusion proteins containing sense orientation of the MADS-box region could lead to the inhibition of downstream transcription processes through competitively binding to specific trans-acting elements in the promoter regions.

Antisense orientation could block expression of MADS-box genes through RNA-RNA interactions between fusion antisense MADS-GUS mRNA and target MADS-box mRNAs in floral meristem.

Constructs were introduced into the binary vector Bin19 and transformed into AGL1 Agrobacterium strain. *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants were transformed using a root transformation procedure and transformants were selected on medium containing kanamycin  
5 antibiotic. Only antisense constructs were analysed for floral inhibition.

The 25-30% of transformants with antisense MADS-box genes (lines FB13L) did not induce any inflorescence even 45 days after transferring to the soil. These plants look very bushy with much  
10 larger leaves than controls (Fig. 46). After 45 days control plants had already passed through all vegetative stages and finally gave seeds. Usually, in *Arabidopsis* plants floral buds have already appeared when 8-10 rosette leaves are appearing.

In FB13L plants there was no detectable floral induction even  
15 after 25-35 leaves. Leaves of FB13L line plants were stained with X-gluc (histological GUS assay). Most of the plants have shown the blue color of the leaves which indicates a high level of accumulation of GUS proteins.

#### EXAMPLE 7

##### 20 Transformation of *Eucalyptus*

A number of abbreviations are used in the following text. These are in common use in the field of plant tissue culture.

BA: benzyladenine also known as 6-benzylaminopurine.

IBA: indole-3-butyric acid.

25 NAA: 1-naphthaleneacetic acid

TDZ: thidiazuron also known as 1-phenyl-3-[1,2,3-thiadiazol-5-yl] urea.

The following is a detailed description of the preferred steps for producing transgenic *Eucalyptus* from shoot and seedling

explant material.

Shoot explants

1. Subculture shoots monthly on solid KG medium containing 0.2mM BA. Keep in low light (16 hour photoperiod, 100-350 Lux or 1-8 mmolm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> PAR) and 22.5°C.

2. Use whole shoots 3-4 weeks after subculture.

3. Remove lower leaves leaving the top 4-6 leaves.

4. Wound leaves 5 to 6 times with a needle (e.g. 25G) and place whole shoots in an *Agrobacterium* suspension (approximately 1x10<sup>8</sup> cfu ml<sup>-1</sup>) containing 10-100mM acetosyringone for 10 minutes to 2 hours. An *Agrobacterium* suspension with an optical density of 1.0 at 600nm diluted 1/20 is approximately 1x10<sup>8</sup> cfu mL<sup>-1</sup>. Best results when wound near base of leaf. Alternatively, instead of leaving the wounded shoots in an *Agrobacterium* suspension for 1 hour, the shoots can be vacuum-infiltrated with the *Agrobacterium* for 10-30 mins at 40-100 Kpa. The shoots do not need to be wounded for the vacuum infiltration procedure. However, callus formation is greater when wounding is effected with a needle rather than by vacuum-infiltration.

5. Blot shoots between sterile filter papers and insert shoots vertically into KG medium containing 0.2mM BA. Co-culture for 2 days in the dark.

6. Transfer shoots (still upright) to KG medium containing 0.2mM BA and 200 mgL<sup>-1</sup> cefotaxime. Keep in low light for 5 days (16 hour photoperiod, 100-350 Lux or 1-8 mmolm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> PAR).

7. Excise 4-6 upper leaves and place them, adaxial face up, on solid callus induction medium G22 containing 2mM BA, 2.5mM NAA, 200 mgL<sup>-1</sup> cefotaxime and 5-10 mgL<sup>-1</sup> geneticin. Incubate for 2 weeks in the dark.

8. Transfer explants to G22 medium containing 2mM BA, 2.5mM NAA, 1.0mM TDZ, 200 mgL<sup>-1</sup> cefotaxime and 15 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> geneticin.



Subculture every 2 weeks in the dark. Brown phenolic compounds are produced when incubated in the light.

9. After 6 weeks transfer explants to shoot induction medium GBA (i.e. G22 containing 5mM BA and 0.5mM NAA) containing 200  
5  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and 15  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin. Leave in dark for 5-6 days then move into light (16 hour photoperiod, 100-350 Lux or 1-8  $\text{mmolm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  PAR). Subculture every 2 weeks.

10. After 8-10 weeks on GBA with 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and 15  
10  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin transfer pieces of callus with buds and callus formed on the original explants to GBA with 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and 30  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin. Subculture every 2 weeks.

11. After 4-6 weeks on this medium place regenerated shoots  
15 in liquid KG medium containing 0.01 mM BA, 50  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and 5  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin for 2 weeks then transfer to medium with higher geneticin (10  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$ ) for 2-4 weeks. The liquid cultures are shaken at 100-120 rpm with 8 ml of liquid in a 70 ml container.

12. Transfer surviving shoots and callus to solid medium (KG  
20 containing 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and 10  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin but with no hormones) and higher light intensity (16 hour photoperiod, 450 Lux or 10  $\text{mmolm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  PAR). Subculture every 2 weeks.

13. Assay putative transformed shoots for marker gene(s)  
activity.

14. Regenerate plants from the confirmed positive shoot  
25 material. Induce rooting by transferring shoots onto KG containing 10  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin but with no hormones. However, if there is no rooting after three weeks then move to the same medium containing IBA 0.2  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  (9.8 mM).

#### Seedling explants

1. Disinfect seeds and germinate on KG containing 0.2 mM BA.  
30

2. Using 10-12 day old seedlings, remove roots and place them  
in an overnight-grown *Agrobacterium* suspension (approximately

1x10<sup>8</sup> cfu ml<sup>-1</sup>) containing 50mM acetosyringone. An *Agrobacterium* suspension with an optical density of 1.0 at 600nm diluted 1/20 is approximately 1x10<sup>8</sup> cfu mL<sup>-1</sup>. Wound the cotyledons and hypocotyl by gently stabbing with a 30 gauge syringe needle under a dissecting microscope. Incubate for 1 hour then remove the seedlings from the suspension and blot them between sterile filter papers to remove excess liquid. Instead of leaving the wounded cotyledons in an *Agrobacterium* suspension for 1 hour, the cotyledons can be vacuum-infiltrated with the *Agrobacterium* for 20 mins at 95 KPa (28mm Hg). The cotyledons do not need to be wounded for the vacuum infiltration procedure. However, the hypocotyls require wounding even when using vacuum infiltration.

3. Co-cultivate on KG medium (containing 0.2 mM BA) for 2 days in the dark making sure that the seedlings are standing upright in the medium.

4. Transfer the seedlings (still upright) to KG medium (containing 0.2mM BA) and containing 200 mgL<sup>-1</sup> cefotaxime. Continue incubation in low light (16 hour photoperiod, 100-350 Lux or 1-8 mmolm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> PAR) for 5 days.

5. Excise the hypocotyls and cotyledons. Transfer the hypocotyls to callus induction medium G22 containing 0.5mM BA, 1.0mM NAA, 1.0mM TDZ, 200 mgL<sup>-1</sup> cefotaxime and 10 mgL<sup>-1</sup> geneticin. Transfer the cotyledons to G22 medium containing 1.0mM BA, 1.0mM NAA, 0.3mM TDZ, 200 mgL<sup>-1</sup> cefotaxime and 10 mgL<sup>-1</sup> geneticin. Continue incubation in the dark for 2 weeks.

6. Transfer explants to the same medium containing 15 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> geneticin and 200 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> cefotaxime. Continue dark incubation. Subculture every two weeks until about 6 weeks have elapsed.

7. After 6 weeks, transfer to shoot induction medium GBA (i.e. G22 containing 5mM BA and 0.5mM NAA) containing 15 mgL<sup>-1</sup> geneticin. Leave the cultures in the dark for 5-7 days then

transfer them to the light (16 hour photoperiod, 100-350 Lux or 1-8  $\text{mmolm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  PAR).

8. After about 10 weeks on the GBA with 15  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin and 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime, a number of explants will have produced shoots. These shoots are excised and transferred to KG medium (containing 0.2mM BA) with 30  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin and 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime. Meanwhile, the callus that has also formed on the original explants is subcultured back to GBA with 15  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin and 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and left for a further month, by which time more shoots may develop which can then be transferred to KG medium (containing 0.2mM BA) with 30  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin and 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime.

9. All shoots and callus are now transferred to fresh KG medium (containing 0.2mM BA) with 30  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin and 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime for another month or so.

10. After 4-6 weeks on this medium place regenerated shoots in liquid KG medium containing 0.01 mM BA, 50  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and 5  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin for 2 weeks then transfer to medium with higher geneticin (10  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$ ) for 2-4 weeks.

11. Transfer surviving shoots and callus to solid medium (KG containing 200  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  cefotaxime and 10  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin but with no hormones) and higher light intensity (16 hour photoperiod, 450 Lux or 10  $\text{mmolm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  PAR). Subculture every 2 weeks.

12. Assay putative transformed shoots for marker gene(s) activity.

13. Regenerate plants from the confirmed positive shoot material. Induce rooting by transferring shoots onto KG containing 10  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  geneticin but with no hormones. However, if there is no rooting after three weeks then move to the same medium containing IBA 0.2  $\text{mgL}^{-1}$  (9.8 mM).

Seedlings of 12 days old or younger are best for transformation but seedlings up to 20 days old can be used for regeneration.

Shoot regeneration frequencies for non-transformed cotyledon and hypocotyl explants without selection are approximately 80%.

Experience has shown that removal of cefotaxime from the medium, even after 3 months, will result in rapid overgrowth by *Agrobacterium*. The concentration of cefotaxime varies between liquid and solid media.

Shoot material grew faster in liquid medium and formed more shoots when compared to shoots grown on solid medium. This liquid selection step has the advantages of reducing false positives by increasing selection pressure, reducing residual *Agrobacterium* and increasing the amount of shoot tissue compared to solid grown cultures.

The regenerated rooted transgenic plants are then moved to a soil based medium and grown into trees of a size and form suitable for planting. Clones can be micropropagated by tissue culture propagation techniques and grown into trees of a size and form suitable for planting.

The media used in this study were G22, GBA and KG as described by Laine and David (1994). However, various basal media, including MS, B5 and P24, have been tested and found to support shoot regeneration. The plant growth regulator regimes were generally different from those of Laine and David (1994), which were in the combination of 1-3 mM BA, 0.05-2 mM TDZ and 0.5-2.5 mM NAA for callus induction from leaves; 1-3 mM BA, 0.05-1 mM TDZ and 0.5-2.5 mM NAA for cotyledons; and 1-3 mM BA, 0.05-2 mM TDZ and 0.5-2.5 mM NAA for hypocotyls. The differentiation medium was generally a

GBA medium, which was a G22 but supplemented with 2.5 - 5 mM BA and 0.5 mM NAA (Laine and David, 1994). A KG medium containing 0.2 mM BA is generally used as subculture medium for clone materials. All media were solidified with 0.25% Gelrite or Phytigel. pH was adjusted to 5.7 - 5.8 using potassium hydroxide before autoclaving for 15 minutes at 121 C.

A preferred method for the preparation of *Agrobacterium* inoculum is described below.

1. Streak out the *Agrobacterium* strain containing the construct onto plates with selection, eg YEP + rifampicin (50 mg/L) + kanamycin (100 mg/L) for LBA4404, EHA105 and AGL1 containing the pBin GUSINT construct.

2. Incubate plate at 28°C for 2 days.

3. Pick a single colony into YEP broth with selection and grow on shaker overnight at 28°C.

4. Use the overnight culture to inoculate (1% inoculum) fresh medium with selection and grow on shaker overnight at 28°C. This additional step will produce a more consistent inoculum for plant transformation.

5. Harvest *Agrobacterium*, wash and resuspend in tissue culture medium. Dilute to an appropriate concentration ready for transformation.

6. Streak out the resuspended *Agrobacterium* on to lactose yeast medium plates and incubate plate at 28°C for 2 days. Do a Benedict's test (Bernaerts and Deley, 1963) on the colonies to confirm they are *Agrobacterium*.

This strategy will give good thick cultures of *Agrobacterium* on the day of transformation. A culture grown overnight which was inoculated from a plate or glycerol stock will give variable results.

An AGL1 culture grown as described above and diluted to an optical density (600nm) of 0.98 had a viable count of  $2.37 \times 10^9$  cfu/ml.

5 It will of course be realised that while the above has been given by way of illustrative example of this invention, all such and other modifications and variations thereto as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit of this invention as is herein set forth.

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of enhancing vegetative growth in a plant including the steps of:-
  - identifying a gene having a substantially tissue-specific promoter expressing during the development of both male and female plant reproductive structures;
  - constructing an expression cassette comprising a heterologous coding region capable of expressing a product which aborts said development under the expression control of said promoter;
  - transforming plant cells with said expression cassette, and
  - selecting and vegetatively propagating the transformants.
2. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 1, wherein said gene is selected from genes expressing specifically in the development of both male and female reproductive structures.
3. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 2, wherein said heterologous coding region expresses a lethal gene product selected from lethal translation products and antisense RNAs.
4. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 1, wherein said promoter directs expression of said heterologous coding region substantially in said both male and female reproductive structures, and wherein the effect of leakage of said promoter in non target tissues is suppressed.

5. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 4, wherein said heterologous coding region expresses a lethal gene product selected from lethal translation products and antisense RNAs.

6. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 5, wherein said suppression is provided by including in said expression cassette a control gene cascade functioning to prevent expression of, or counter the expressed product of said heterologous coding region.

7. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 6, wherein said control gene cascade comprises a control gene selected to express a gene product acting to prevent expression of or counter the expressed product of said heterologous coding region, said control gene expressing under the control of a constitutive promoter which is itself under the control of a repressor gene the expression of which is promoted by a second tissue specific promoter.

8. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 7, wherein said heterologous region codes for the enzyme Barnase, said control gene expresses Barstar under the control of a constitutive promoter including a LacIq op site, and said repressor gene expresses LacIq under the expression control of the same or another promoter specific to the same tissue as said heterologous coding region.

9. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to claim 1, wherein said heterologous coding region expresses



under the control of a tissue specific promoter derived from the MADS-box genes of *Pinus radiata*, *Arabidopsis thaliana*, or *Eucalyptus grandis*, or strong homologues thereof of other species.

10. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 9, wherein said plant is *Pinus radiata*, and wherein said tissue specific promoter is selected from PrMADS2, PrMADS3, PrFL1 or PrCon1.
11. A method of enhancing vegetative growth according to Claim 9, wherein said plant is *Eucalyptus grandis*, and wherein said tissue specific promoter is derived from the EGM3 gene.
12. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said tissue specific promoter is identified from genomic DNA using a 'promoter finder' strategy (Clontech).
13. A method in accordance with Claim 12, wherein said identified cDNAs are selected for the presence of a single gene expressed in both male and female buds.
14. A method in accordance with Claim 13, wherein said promoter or, preferably, a constitutive is fused with a heterologous coding region which codes for an expression product of which is the antisense version of said gene.
15. The plasmid pBR Barnase prom Barstar 1 yielding V1-promoters according to FIG 21.

16. The plasmid pBR 35SPromOpBarstar yielding V2 promoters according to FIG 22.
17. The plasmid EGM3 double bin according to FIG 33.
18. The plasmid EGM3 V1 sense according to FIG 34.
19. The plasmid V1 (Barnase-Barstar) according to FIG 35.
20. The plasmid pBR Barnase according to FIG 36.
21. The plasmid V2 (LacIqNLS-35S promoterOp-Barstar) according to FIG 37.
22. The plasmid p35Sop Barstar E-2 according to FIG 38.
23. The plasmid p35Sop Barstar according to FIG 39.
24. The plasmid pBRlac.
25. The plasmid pBRGUS 1.
26. The plasmid pBRGUS 2.
27. The plasmid Bin 19+EGM3 V1 sense.
28. The plasmid EGM3 V2 sense.
29. The plasmid pBRLacBH-.

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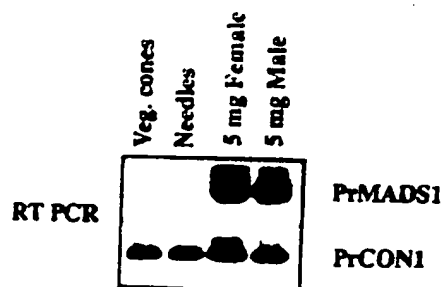
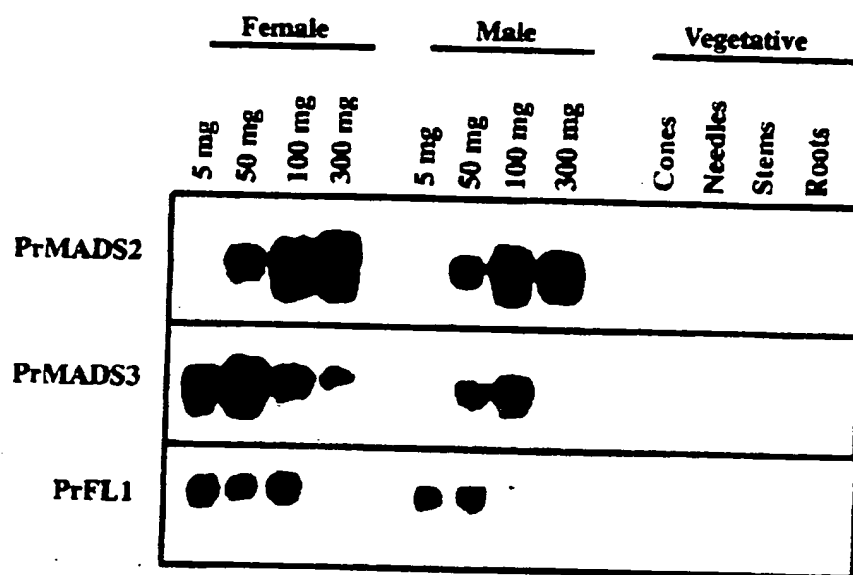


Figure 1

2/50

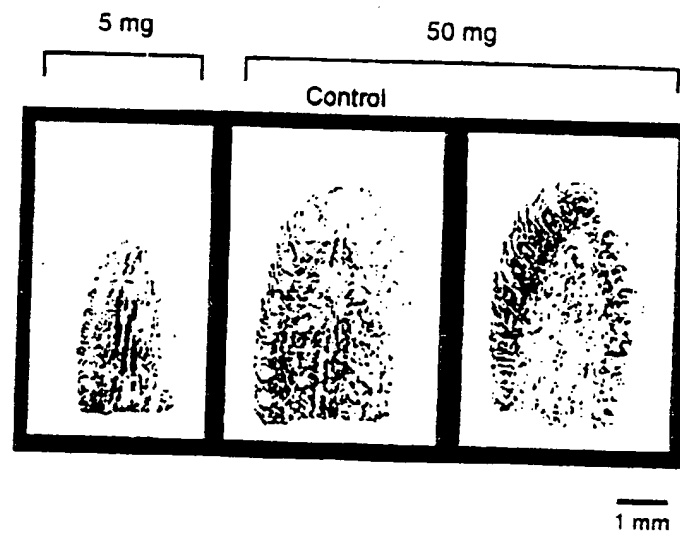


Figure 2

3/50

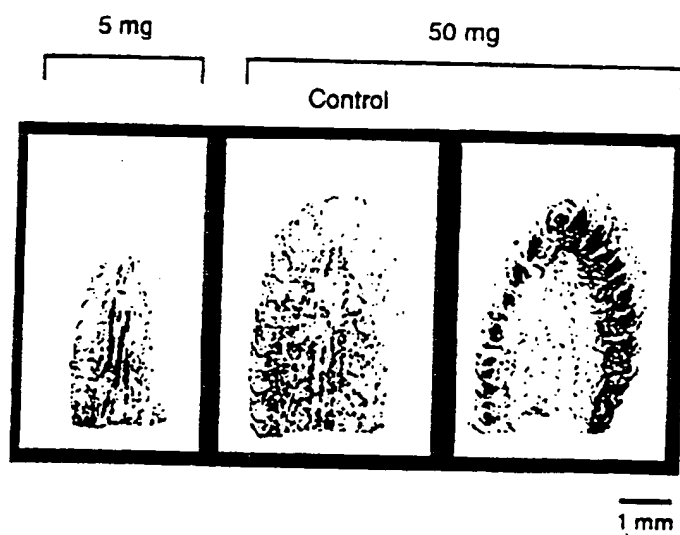


Figure 3

4/50

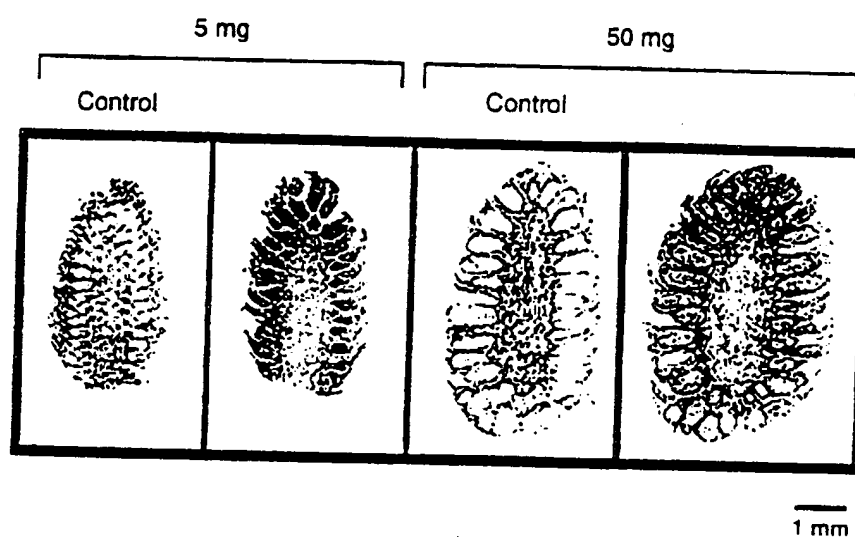


Figure 4

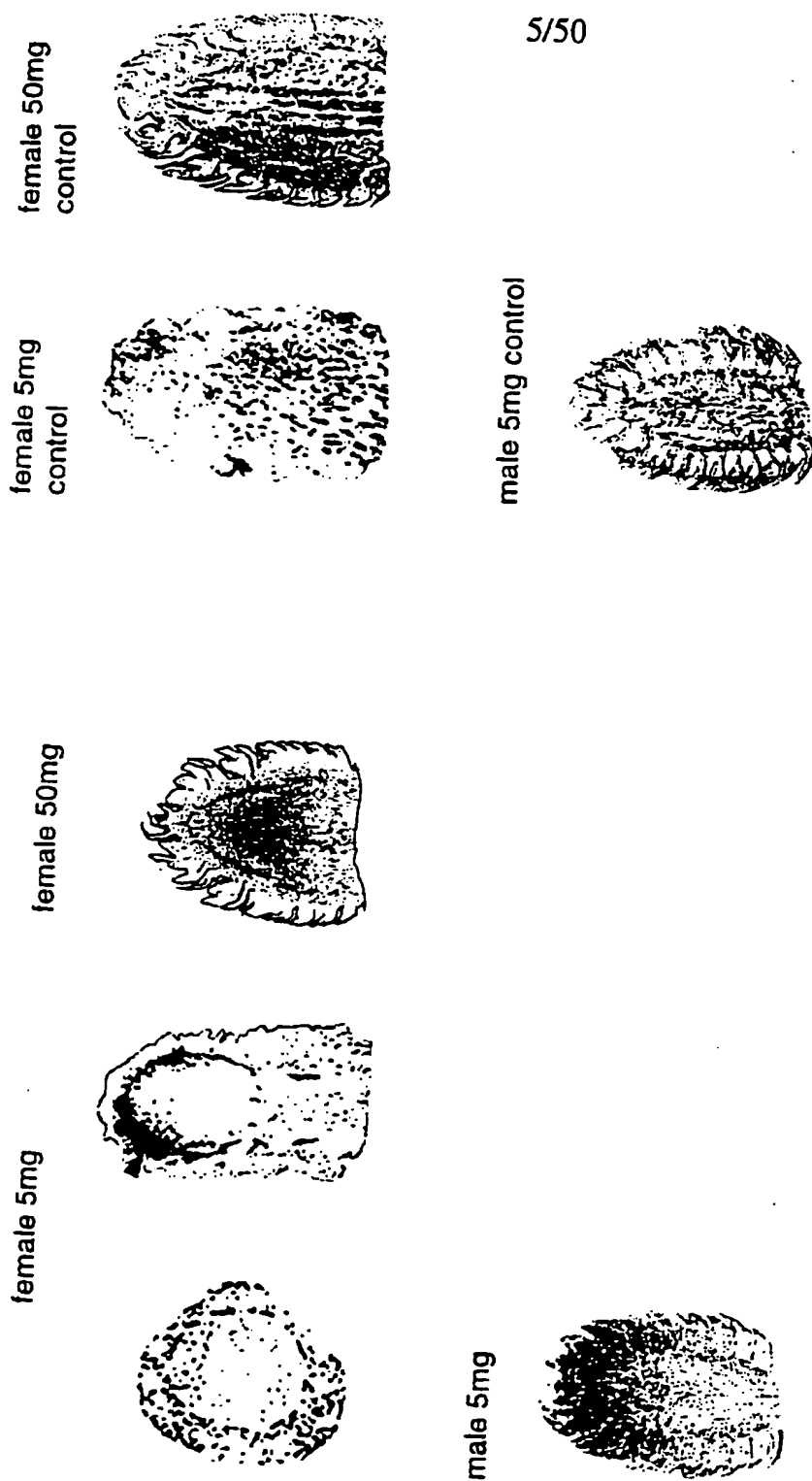
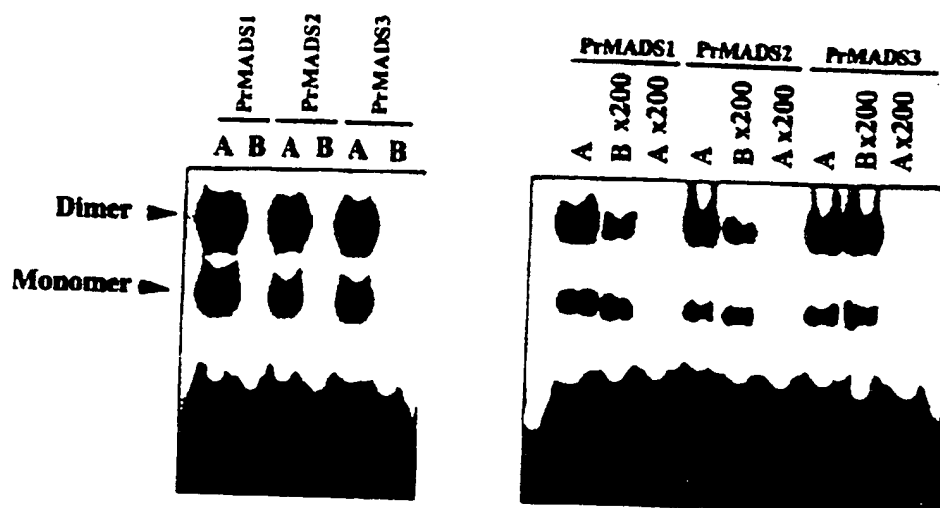


Figure 5

6/50



AG consensus CArG-box  
 NTT(A/T)CC(A/T)NNGG(-G)(A/t)2N

A: TTACCAAAAAAAGGAAA

B: TTAGGAAAAAACCAAA

Figure 6



7/50

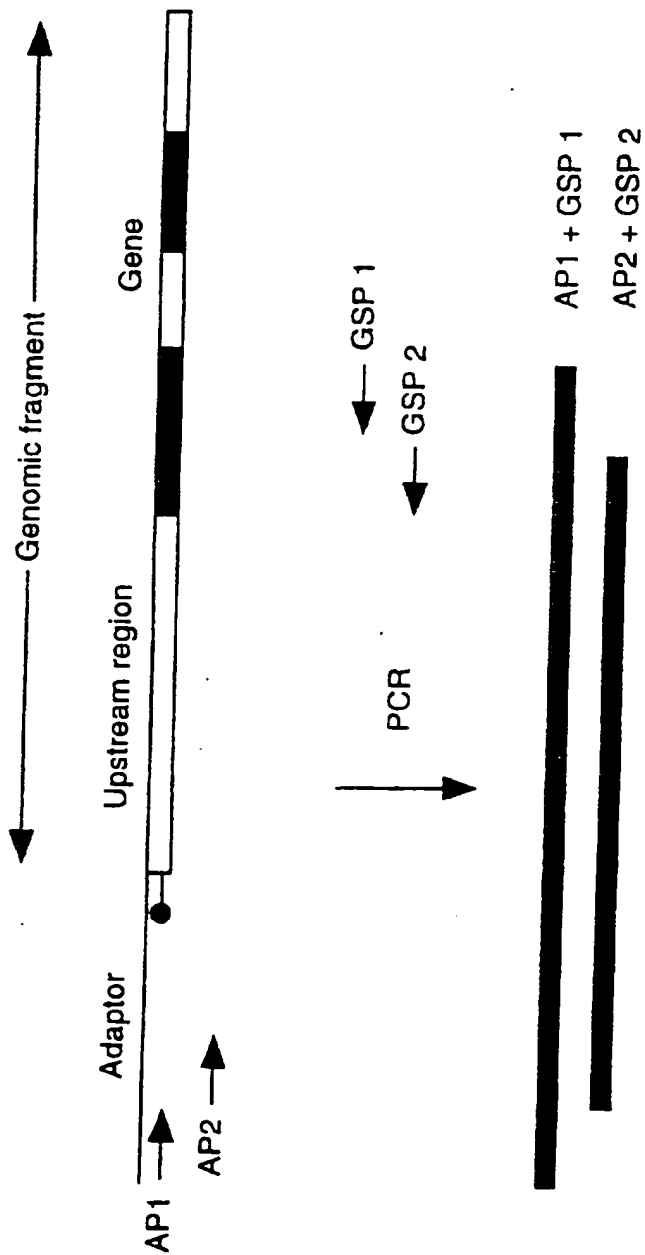


Figure 7

8/50

TGAGAAAGAGAGACAGAGATATGGGAAGAGGGAAAGTAGAGCTGAAGAGGATAGAGAA  
CAAAATCAACAGGCAAGTAACATTTGCGAAGAGAAGAAATGGGCTTCTCAAGAAAGCTT  
ATGAGCTCTCTGTTCTCTGTGATGCTGAGGTTGCGCTCATCATTTTCTCCAACCGTGGCAA  
GCTCTATGAATTCTGCAGCAGTTCTAGCATGATGAAAACAATTGAGAAGTACCAGAAGTG  
CAGCTATGGTTCACTTGAGAcCAACTGCTCCATCAATGAGATGCAGAACAGCTACCAGGA  
TTATTTGGAGCTAAAAGCAAGAGTGGAGGTCCTCCAACGATCTCAGAGAAACCTCCTTGG  
GGAAGAGTTGGGTCCCCTAAACTCGAAGGAGCTGGAGCAACTTGAGCACCAGTTGGAG  
AATTCTCTGAAGCAAATTCGGTCTGCAAAGACCCAATTCATGTTTGATCAACTGGCTCATC  
TTCAGCACAAGGAACAAATGCTGGTTGAAGCTAACAGAGAATTAAGGAAGAAGTTGGAA  
GAGAGCAATACAAGAATCCCTCTCCGCCTTGGATGGGAAGCTGAGGATCACAATAACAT  
TTCATACAGGCGCCTTCCCACGCAGTCGCAAGGATTGATCTTCCAGCCCTTAGGCGGCTA  
CCCGAACATGCAGATCGGGTACAATCCTGCAGGCTCGAATGAATTGAATGTTTCGCCTGC  
CGACCAACATCCCAacGGATTCAATCCCGGATGGATGCTCTGAATCGTTCCGCAAGTGAA  
CTGCTTGCTGGAAGTTCCATATCAAGTACATTTTCCGGTTTTTGCTATGATATATGACTCTT  
CTTCTTCTGGATGACCTATACGAAGATCCATCATTCTGGATATTGTCCATGGACGTACCC  
TAAAAGGAAGGACGGTATGAATCCAATCTAGCTTACTATTTTGTATAAGAATAAAGATCT  
GTGCTGCTGATATTTGGAATTCATCTATGTTATTTAATGTATGGAATCC

Figure 8

9/50

MGRGKVELKRIENKINRQVTFARRNGLLKKAYELSVLCDAEVALIIFSNRGKLYEFCSSSS  
MMKTIEKYQKCSYGSLETNCSINEMQNSYQDYLELKARVEVLQRSQRNLLGEELGPLNSKEL  
EQLEHQLENSLKQIRSAKTQFMFDQLAHLQHKEQMLVEANRELKKLEESNTRIPLRLGWEA  
EDHNNISYRRLPTQSQGLIFQPLGGYPNMQIGYNPAGSNELNVSPADQHPNGFIPGWML

Figure 9

10/50

GAATTCGCGGCCGCTAGAAGAATAAGGAAGAGGCCGAGAGAGGGAGCATTATCGTCGA  
GCAGGAGGGGGAAAGAAAGAAAGAAAGAAAGGAAGGAATGGGGCGAGGGCGCGTCGAG  
CTGAAGCGGATCGAGAATAAGATTAACCGCCAGGTCACGTTTTTCGAAACGCCGGAATGG  
TCTGCTGAAAAAGGCGTATGAACTTTCAGTGTTATGTGATGCAGAGGTAGCACTGATaATA  
TTCTCAAGCAGAGGAAAACCTCTATGAGTTCGGAAGCGCCGGGATGCTCAAGACTCTGGA  
GCGATATCAAAAATGTTTCATACGTATTGCAAGACGCGACTGTATCGgACCGGgAGGCGCA  
GAATTGGCATCAAGAGGTtgGcAAATTTAAAGCCAGAGTTGAACTTTTACAACGATCACAA  
AGGCACTTATTAGGTGAAGACCTGGGCCCCCTTGAGTaTTAAGGAGCTGCAACAACCTGGAA  
CGTCAACTTGAGGTTGCACTGACACATGTTAGGTCAAGAAAGACTCAAGTCATGTTGGAA  
ATGATGGATGAACTACGCAGAAAGGAGCGAATTTTACAAGAAGTAAACAAATCTCTGCG  
CAAGAAGTTGCAGGAGGCCGAGGGACAGGCATTCAATGCCATGCAACCTCCCCCTCATG  
CATGGGATTTCGCATGCAGTAGCAAATAATGCATATGCTATGCAACATCCATCAAATGCTG  
TGGATTGTGAGCCACATTGCAGATTGGATACCAaTATGCCCTCCTGAGTCAAGCATGC  
CTAGGCATGAACAAGCACAAAACAATTACATGCAAGGCTGGATGGTATAATGTACCACCA  
ATTTCTAATGACAAGCAGAAGTATTAATATTTATAAATATTAAAATGTCTGTATATATAGCT  
ATGAATTTACAGTTGTATTGTACTTCCATTTTAATTCATGTTTTTCAGTAGTTTGATTGTAG  
TAACTTAACATTTTATTTTTCCCAAACCCTAACAACCTTTGACTTTTAAAAAGTCACAATTTTA  
TGCAACAATATTTGTGTTTATAaTATAATTGCTTTTCCTGTTTAAAAAA

Figure 10

11/50

MGRGRVELKRIENKINRQVTFKRRNGLLKAYELSVLCDAEVALIIFSSRGKLYEFGSAGM  
LKTLERYQKCSYVLQDATVSDREAQNWHEVGKLEKARVELLQRSQRHLLGEDLGPLSIKEL  
QQLERQLEVALTHVRSRKTQVMLEMMDELRRKERILQEVNKSRLKKLQEAEGQAFNAMQPP  
PHAWDSHAVANNAYAMQHPSNAVDCEPTLQIGYQYAPPESSMPRHEQAQNNYMQGWMV

Figure 11

12/50

CTCCCGGCCGCCATGGCCGCGGGATACTATAGGGCACGCGTGGTTCGACGGCCCCGGGCT  
GGTAAAAGACGTCCCTCCGATGAATTCGACAGTGGAGTCCACAAAGAAAGATGCGTACG  
CTGAATGCCACGTGTCTATAGTTTGCCACACCTTCAAACATACTCTGTACGCAGATCG  
GCGGACCTGAAAATTTTCTTCGTATAAATCGTCTGTGTTAAGGATATTTGACCATCGGTCC  
GAAAGATGCGACTGTCCGACTGCATCTCGTCTCTGGTAATGTTTTTTTTCAAATTTATAAA  
GATTGTTTTGCATTATTATTATTTATCATGTTGCGTAAgATCTGGTGAGCAGTATTATTTGT  
CACTTTGTGTGGAATCCCTTATGAAAATATATATTTATtCCAGAAAagTATTTTAGCTTGTCA  
AATTGTGTGGAATCTGGTATAAGTACCTGTATTTATCAGACGTATTATTTGTTAAATTGTG  
TGGAATCTGGTATAAATTTATATACTTCGTGAGGAAATGTATTTATTAGCAGTATTACTGG  
TCAAACAGAGTGGAATCCTGTATAAATTTATCATATTTAGGAACAAATGTATTTATCAGCG  
TTATTATCTGTCAAAATGTGTGGAGACGCGATGACTTTAAATTTTTTGATAATAGGCGGAGC  
GTATAGGTACGCTGTAGTATTGTAGACTGGCATGTAGAGTACAAAGTTTAGATATTAACC  
TAGATTATTTTTGCTATTTCGCAGGCTATCGCGTACTCATGGTGAAATGCGTACAGTTTCAA  
AGTAAATGGTTGATGTTGAGTGCGGTGGCGGGGGCAGACACACAAATAGGAATCGGAgA  
gCGAGAGTACTGCAGCAATTGTTGTTTAcTTTTTGAGCAAGACGAGGATCAAAGAAGAAT  
AAGGAAGAGGCCGAGAGAGGGAGcATTATcGTCGAGCAGGAGGGGGAAAGAAAGAAAG  
AAAGAAGGAAAGAATGGGGCGAGGGCGCGTCTGAGCTGAAGCGGATCGAGAATAAGATT  
AACCGTCAGGTCAcGTTTTCGAAACGCCGGAATGGTcTGCTGAAAAAGGCG

Figure 12

13/50

ATGGGGCGGGGTCGGGTTTCAGCTGAGGCGAATAGAAAACAAAATAAATCGACAAGTCA  
CGTTTTTCGAAGCGCCGGAACGGACTGCTGAAGAAgGCGTACGAGCTATCAGTGCTGTGC  
GATGCCGAAGTGGCGCTAATAATTTTCTCTACCAGAGGAAAGCTTTACGAGTTTGCCAGT  
TCCAGCATGAACAAGACGTTGGAAAGATACGAAAAATGTTTCATATGCAATGCAAGATACC  
ACAGGCGTTTTCGGACCGGGAAGCACAGAATTGGCACCAAGAAGTTACAAAGTTGAAGGg  
TAAGgTTGAGCTCCTGCAGCGATCACAAAGGCATTTGTTGGGGGAAGATCTGGGTCCGTT  
AAATGTTAAGGAgCTACAGCAGCTTGAACGTCAGCTGGAGgTTGCTCTGACACATCTTAGg  
TCaAgGAAAACGCAGgTAaTGCTGGACCAgATTGAGgAaCTTCGCCAAAGGGAACGGTTGC  
TACATGAAGTAAACAAGTCTCTGCAGAAAAAGCTTTCCGAAACAGAGGGAAGAGATGTAA  
TAACTGGCATAgAGCAAACCTTCTAATACTAATACTGGTACTAACGGTCCTTGGGATTCTTC  
TATCACAAACACTGCgTATGCTCTCTCACACCCTCAACAAGATTCAAATTCAAGCCTCCAC  
CATGTGGACTGTGAACCCACGCTACAGATTGGTTATCAGCCTGTGGCTCCTGAAAGCATC  
GTCCCTCCTCATCAGCCGCCGCACAACCAAACGCCGAacCAATACATGCAAGGATGGTG  
GGTTTGATATTTAACATTTATCATTATCAGTTACTTCAATCACAAACAAAAGCCCAAAGCGT  
GGTAAATTACGAAATTAGAATTATATTATCATTAAAAAAAACCCTATTTTCATTGTATAgC  
AGTAGGCTTGATTTACTGCTATGATAGCGGAGGTTTTATTGGGCAAACAAACCCT.ACTGG  
TATATTAGACCTTCTTGTCGACAAAGTTTAATTGCATAAATCTTGTATGCTAATCTGGCCG  
CTAAAAGAgCGATGGAAAAATAGTTGTCCCATTCACAACACATGATATGTTTAAATCCAAC  
GTGTATGTGTCTGCAAAATATTATTATACACTACGGTTTATCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Figure 13

14/50

MGRGRVQLRRIENKINRQVTFSKRRNGLLKAYELSVLCDEAVALIIFSTRGKLYEFASSSM  
NKTLERYEKCSYAMQDTTGVSDREAQNWQHVEVTKLKGKVELLQRSQRHLLGEDLGPLNVK  
ELQQLERQLEVALTHLRSRKTQVMLDQIEELRQRERLLHEVNKSLQKKLSETEGRDVITGIEQ  
TSNTNTGTNGPWDSSITNTAYALSHPQQDSNSSLHHVDCEPTLQIGYQPVAPESIVPPHQPPH  
NQTPNQYMQGWWV

Figure 14



15/50

GGCCCGGGCTGGTATTTGGTGTAAAGTTTTAAAGGAAGCTGGAAGATTTCAAATCAGTCCT  
AATCCTTTAAAAA<sub>c</sub>TCAGCTTTTGCAAACATGTAACAATCTATGAGTATTATTATGCGTTAT  
GGATGTGGCATTTCCTACTGCCTTTTAAGTACTTCGGTTTGTAAAGTAA<sub>AA</sub>CTAA<sub>AA</sub>ACAGAAA  
ATTTCTCTTCTAGTATTCTTAAACCGAGTGGAGTTGAGCTGAAGTGAGAGGAGGTATATA  
TATATATGTATATTTATTTAGAGTCCAAAGAATCGAGGCGAAAGGCATGTGATGGACGAA  
AGCAACCTTAATCTCTCTGCAAATTGTCCCTCCAAATTC<sub>AA</sub>ACTAA<sub>AA</sub>ATCAATCCGGACCC  
GCATGAGCATCGATCGAATCATTTGGGTCATGCATCCTATGCATGCTCATCGATAACGAT  
AATGTATGGGCATGTGGCGCTCATCAATGATGATAGATGGGCATGGGGCCCCACATGAT  
GTGGACAGTGGCAACAATAGTACACTAGTTGTAAATGGGTAA<sub>CC</sub>TGTAGTTGGCTTGGTT  
TACTTTATATGGAATGAAAGAGGTACGAAACAAAGTATATCAAACGTTGACTCAATGAGT  
ACGCCGATCGACGCGTGT<sub>TTTT</sub>TAAT<sub>TTTT</sub>TAATGTTCCAAGGCCGGGCAGGCCCACTTCA  
ATCAACGCAATGCCACGCCAA<sub>AA</sub>ATTCACCGATATTTATGTCATGTT<sub>TTT</sub>AACTAATAAATTA  
CCCAGCGGAA<sub>AA</sub>ACTGGTCGCAGCGTAAAGCGTTCATGGGTGCCGGGCGGGTAACTCTT  
GAA<sub>AA</sub>ATGTATACAAATTTATTTATATGAA<sub>AA</sub>ATATCATGCTGATGATATACGCACGTTC  
TCTCT<sub>c</sub>TAGGTTTCTTTTCTTGCTTTCTTTCTGGTCCACATAAACTAC<sub>c</sub>TACTCTTATAATGT  
GCGTGTCATTGAGGTAGATTAGATTCGATTCCTGACCCTGGGAGGAGGAAGAAGAAGA  
AGAACAGCAGGAGGAAGCGAA<sub>AA</sub>ATTTATTAATAGTAACCAGAGAATAGCAGCGGGTGAA  
GAAGCAGAGGGATCTTGCAATGGGGCGGGGTCGGGTTCAGCTGAGGCGAATAGAA<sub>AA</sub>AC  
AA<sub>AA</sub>TAAATCGACAAGTCACGTTTTCGAAGCGCCGGAACGGACTGCTG

Figure 15

GAAATTCGGCACGAGGGTAGAGAGATCCCTGGGCCTAGAAGTGTTTTCGGAGGAGCGC  
ACTGCATTCTACTTCGGAAAAAATATGGATGCAGAGCACTTTCCTGTAGGTTTCTTTAGG  
TGGGATCAGAGACCAGCACCAGTTGTAGCGGCAGCAGCAGCACCAACAACAACTGTCTT  
TAACAAGGACCATGGACGACCGTTGGA<sub>g</sub>TC<sub>a</sub>TTCT<sub>t</sub>CCCATGAATGGGAGAAAGGATTTG  
AAGTCCCTTGAAGATCTGTTTAAAGAGTATGGAGTTCGATACGTAACCTCTTGCCAAGATG  
ACCGAGATGGGCTTCACTGCCAACACCCTTGTC<sub>a</sub>ATATGACAGAGGAAGAGATTGA<sub>g</sub>AT  
TTGATGAAGACC<sub>c</sub>TGGT<sub>a</sub>AACTCTATCATATGGATCTTCTTAT<sub>g</sub>GGGAGAG<sub>a</sub>ATATGGA<sub>a</sub>T  
TAAATCTGCCATA<sub>g</sub>Ag<sub>g</sub>CA<sub>g</sub>Ag<sub>g</sub>AA<sub>g</sub>AAAA<sub>g</sub>GTTGCAGGAT<sub>g</sub>CTTGGAGATGCAAA<sub>g</sub>GTTGG  
AAATCTTGTCTGAGGCAGAGAGAAAGAGGATATTACATGATGATCAGAATACTTTTGCAG  
CTGCTATGGCATCCGAAGGAACATCTAAGGAACTGAGAGCAAATGACCCACTGATTTTCC  
CAGAAAGCACAAGTGCAGATCATGCCCCAATGAATATAGCCAGCTGCAAAGACAGTACT  
CTCATTCTCCAGAACAGTAACCAGGCACAGTTTTGTGGCTCGGGATTGATTGGAGTGCCT  
GAGCACAGCAGTGAGAGCGATGAAAGGAAAGCTGATACGAATAAGCAGAAAAGGAGGC  
GGTCCAAGGAGCCTGGAGAGGATGGGGAGGAC<sub>g</sub>GCCT<sub>g</sub>Ag<sub>g</sub>AGCATCCTTTTCATTGTC  
ACGGAACCA<sub>g</sub>G<sub>g</sub>AACTG<sub>g</sub>CAAGAGGGAAGAAAA<sub>a</sub>TG<sub>g</sub>T<sub>c</sub>TGGAT<sub>t</sub>AT<sub>c</sub>TCTT<sub>g</sub>AT<sub>c</sub>T<sub>c</sub>TaTGA  
GCAGTG<sub>i</sub>GGGAAATTTTTAT<sub>t</sub>aGAAGTACAA<sub>a</sub>GGATTG<sub>c</sub>TAAGGAAA<sub>a</sub>GGGAGAAA<sub>a</sub>ATGCC  
CAACA<sub>a</sub>AGGT<sub>t</sub>ACAAATCA<sub>a</sub>GiGTTCCGTCA TGCCAAGCACAATGGTGCTGT<sub>t</sub>ACATAAACA  
AAC<sub>c</sub>TAAAA<sub>t</sub>GCGACATTATGTTCAATT<sub>g</sub>CTATG<sub>c</sub>T<sub>c</sub>T<sub>g</sub>CaTTGCT<sub>t</sub>GGACAGTGAGCAATCC<sub>a</sub>T<sub>c</sub>  
AC<sub>c</sub>TCAGAAG<sub>a</sub>CTATACA<sub>a</sub>GGAGAGGGGAG<sub>t</sub>AAAATGTTGGGGCCTGGCGCCAGGC<sub>c</sub>TGTT  
AcTATCCCCTGGT<sub>g</sub>CC<sub>a</sub>TAGCCAGAGAGAATAATTGGGATATTGAGGGCATTTTTAATAG  
GAACGAA<sub>a</sub>AGCTTAAGAT<sub>t</sub>GGTATGTTCCCAAAA<sub>a</sub>cTTAGACAACCTGTGTCATATGGAGA  
GAAGCAAAGAGTGTCAATAGTTTCATTGAGATTAATGTGTGTAATTAACTTAGGCAGCT  
GTGTCACATAGAGAGAAGCAAAAAGTGCCAATAGTTTCATTGAGATTAATGTGTGTAATT  
TGAGCTGCTCAGCTTCAAGTGTAGCTCCGTGATTATTGGGCATTTGTGTTCTCAT<sub>t</sub>GTGAC  
CTTGCAATATCAGATTTGATATGCATTGTGTCATGCCGTT<sub>c</sub>TTTCAAACATTGTATATGTATT  
GGCAACTGGGTATGGAT<sub>c</sub>TGCTCCTTTCTCCGTCACTAAACATGCGGAAACCTTTGTTTCT  
CCTTGTGATAAATTTCAGTACATTACTGTTCAATAGTTATTTTCTTTCAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  
AAA

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MDAEHFPVGFFRWDQRPAPVVAAAAAPTITTVFNKDHGRPLEVILPMNGRKDLKSLEDLFKE  
YGVRYVTLAKMTEMGFTANTLVNMTEEEIEDLMKTLVELYHMDLLIGERYGIKSIRAEEKR  
LQDSLEMQRLEILSEAERKRILHDDQNTFAAAMASEGTSKELRANDPLIFPESTSADHAPMNI  
ASCKDSTLILQNSNQAQFCGSLIGVPEHSSESDEKADTNKQKRRRSKEPGEDGEDRPREH  
PFIVTEPGELARGKKNGLDYLFDLYEQCGKFLLEVQRIAKEKGEKCPTKVTNQVFRHAKHN  
GAVYINKPKMRHYVHCYALHCLDSEQSNHLRRLYKERGVNVGAWRQACYYPPLVAIARENN  
WDIEGIFNRNEKLKIWYVPTKLRQLCHMERSKECQ

Figure 17

18/50

GCCGCACTAGTGATTTCGTCCATGGTCCTTGTTAAAGACAGTTGTTGTTGGTGCTGCTGCT  
GCCGCTACAACTGGTGCTGGTCTCTGATCCCACCTAAAGAAACCTACAGGAAAGTGCTCT  
GCATCCATATTTTTTCCGAAGTAGAATGCAGTGCGCTCCTACACCAAACAAAAACCACTC  
ATAGAATTAGCACATGGGTGATAAATTCTGAgATGCTTTTCATTGATTACCGATTGAACTG  
CAAgATTTGAAGTTGATGGGTACAAATTCCTCCAgATATTTAACCAGACCAAgTGGGTTC  
AAGCGGTACTTGAAgAAgCAgAATgTGTACCTCCGAAAACACTTCTAGGCCCAGGGACCTC  
TCTACCATCCAGTGACTTTACATTAgAAAATGTAAGGCTGCTCCCATATTTAAGGCTGTCT  
GTGAgTTTAATGCTtCTTAATCTAGTTTACTGGAACACCATTTTCTTCTAATCACATCaCAGT  
AgTagCTATCATCCAACTTATCCAAGACAAAATATCTGAAACCATTCCTGAACTAATGATT  
TGACTATACTTTGAGTTAGCGTTGTACTCAAATTATTCATTGCGGGGCCATGTTTGCAGGT  
TAAACAAAATCTCCACAGTCTGATTGCTATGTTTTATCAAATGATTTCTCAAATAATAATT  
CAGTGTACCCATTTGTATTTTTACTTTAATACTTTTCATTAATGTCCTCGAGAGCAATGGCT  
CTAGGGTCAAAGGAACCTTATCCAGTACCGTACGCTGTAAATACTGTAATGTTGCTTTTA  
TGGTGTCTTATAGATTACAGCGAGACTTGCTAGTCATGTGACTTTTAAAAATTTTCATGTCA  
GGCACTTGAAAATTGTTTCAAGTACAATGCAATTTTCCCATGGACTACTGGAAGTGCCTG  
CTAAAACTGTCTTTTCATGGTCTAATGAGAAGTATATGACCAGGCCTCTTCTCCCTCCATT  
TTAAGAAAAACAAATTAAATTATTTAAAAAATAAAATTACaATAATAATCTTGACAGATTGA  
TTTTGAGTTGAATGTTAGAATAGATGGAGTGCTGCCTAAGATTTGTTGGCCAAGAAATCC  
GCAGCTTATTCAGAAGTTCATCATTACAATGTTTTATCTAAGAAATCCTCAACTTATTCC  
AAAATGTAAGTTATTACAATACCAGCCCGGGCCGTCGACCACGCGTCCCCTATAGTATCC  
CGCGGCCATGGCGGCCGG

Figure 18

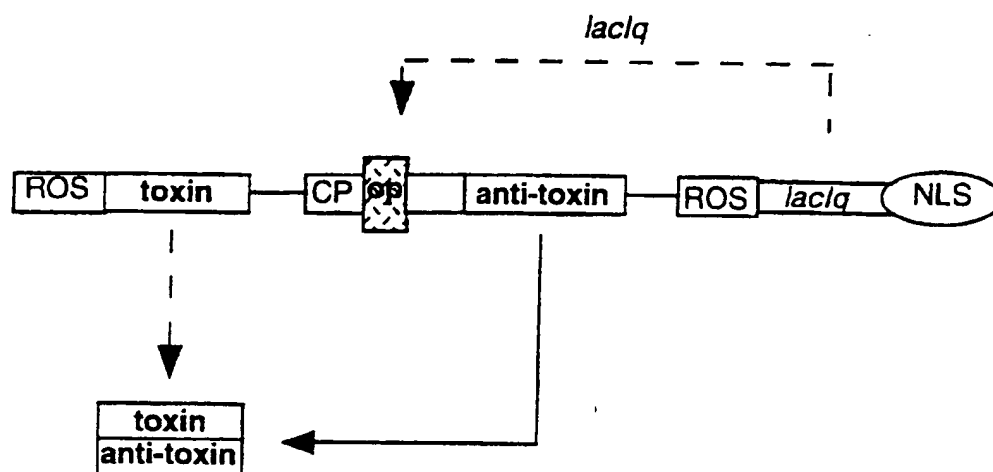
19/50

GGCACGAGCTCGTGCCGAATTCGGCACGAGCGAGTTTTTTTTTTTATGGTATTGGAGAAT  
TTCGGCGGAGTTGGAGCACGGGAAGCcTCGTGCCGAATTCGGCAcgAGCTCAgAGGGATT  
GGAGGGTGGAGAATGA<sub>g</sub>TATGCCAAAGCTCTGTGATGTTTGTCaGGTATCGAGCTCTGTA  
ATATATTGCAGAGCTCATACTGCACAGCTTTGCTTAGTCTGTGATGCTAAAATTCATGGTG  
GTAGCAAG<sub>g</sub>CTTCGTTGTGTCATGAAAGAgTTTGGGTTTGTGAAGTATGTGAGCAGGCCC  
CAGCTGTGGTTACATGCAAGGCAGATGCAGCAGCTTTATGTGTAGCCTGTGATACTGATA  
TTCATTCTGCCAATCCTCTTGCAAGTAGGCATGAAAGAGCACCTGTGATTCCATTTTATGA  
GTGCCCTAATATGCCCACTAATAACAGTTACACATGCCAATAATGATAACTTGGACTGC  
AATGTTTTGCTGAATGAAGAT<sub>g</sub>GTGGTGGGGATGaTCcTCTGAAACATGATTATGTTGATG  
ATGACTATGGTGATTATGATGATGATGAGAATGATCAGAACAATTTGTTGAACAATCaGG  
AA<sub>g</sub>ATAATAATGATGCTGAAATATGTTGTGCagAA<sub>g</sub>AG<sub>g</sub>CTGCAACAGCATCATGGTTGAT  
TCCTGAGGCCAACAGAAATAATTTGACAATTATCAATGGAGGTAACCTCAGAAGGAGAAG  
ATAAGATGGTGAAGGATAAACTCAAGTTCAAGGCCTATATGCAGAGCATGGATTTTTTAC  
AAGATGTGGATAATTACGCCGATCTGGAGTACTTGGGAACAACACTACTATTACAACGCCAA  
TAAACCCCACTGCCAATATGGGGGCAGATAGTATGGTTCCTGTTCACTCCTGAAGTTA  
TTGAGCATTCTTCTACAAAAGTTTCTATTGATACAGCTGGGTCAATGGATGTGGATGCAG  
CATCCAAGTGCAATCAC<sub>g</sub>TTTACAGAACTACATCTCTCAATCACiGTGTCTCTTCCTCCCC  
ATAGATGTiGGAATTGTACCTGACAGCAACATTACATCTGATATTTCAACACCTTACCATG  
ACCCAAGAGGAGTATTCGAGATTCTCCTCGGGTTGTTTCATCCTGGAGGCCAAGGTGAG  
GTCATGGGA<sub>g</sub>AGAA<sub>g</sub>CAAGAGTTCTCAGATACAGAGAAAAAGAAAGAA<sub>g</sub>CA<sub>g</sub>AAGGTTT  
GAGAA<sub>g</sub>ACAATACGATATGCTTCTAGAAAAGCCTATGCAGAGACTCGGCCCAGGATAAAA  
GGCCGATTTGCCAAGAGAACAGAGGTa<sub>g</sub>AAGTGGAACAGATATACTCATcTTCTTTGCTTC  
CTGATCAAGGATATGGAGTTGTTCCATCTTATTGAACCAGTCAATATAAATAATTAACCTCT  
TCTCTAGTATCTATCCTTGTTATTCTAATTGTAACCTGCCATCACAATCATAATGCCTTATAA  
CTTCAATTTATTTCATGCCTATGAGATTGGGCTGGTATGTa<sub>g</sub>AAACTCATGGCAGGTCTATTCa  
CATTTGGGTTGTTTCGCATACTCAAAGCCTCCTCCTTACTCATTCTGCCTTGCTCATTGAT<sub>g</sub>T  
GG<sub>g</sub>TCAGACTGCAGTAAGATGAAGTCGGTGTGACTCACACTTTGAAGAACAGCCATACAT  
ACTATTAGTGTTC<sub>g</sub>CAAGTCGATCGAAGTTTGTATTTCAGCTTCCTGCAATCTTCTCTGCTC  
ATGAATAAATCTTTTCCCCAGTCTCCTACTAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

Figure 19

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A. non - flowering period  
(in all tissues)



B. flowering period  
(in reproductive tissue)

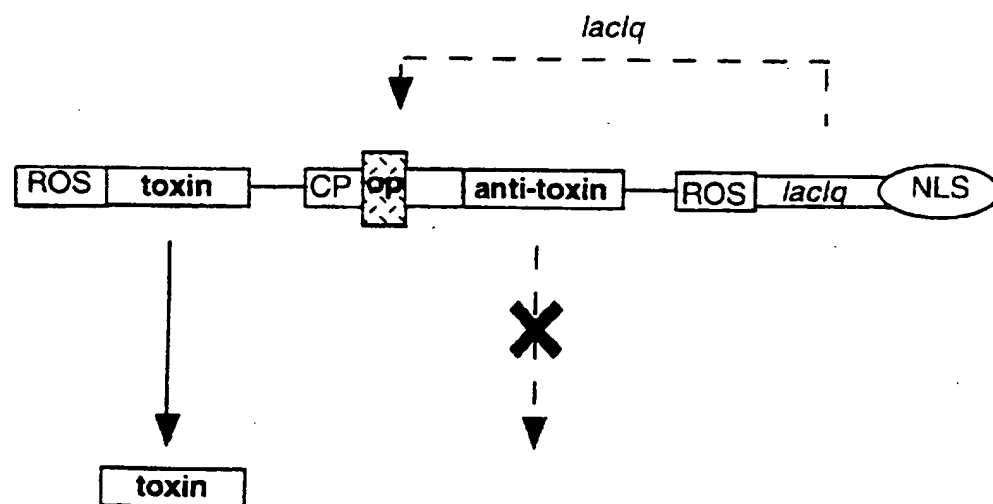


Figure 20

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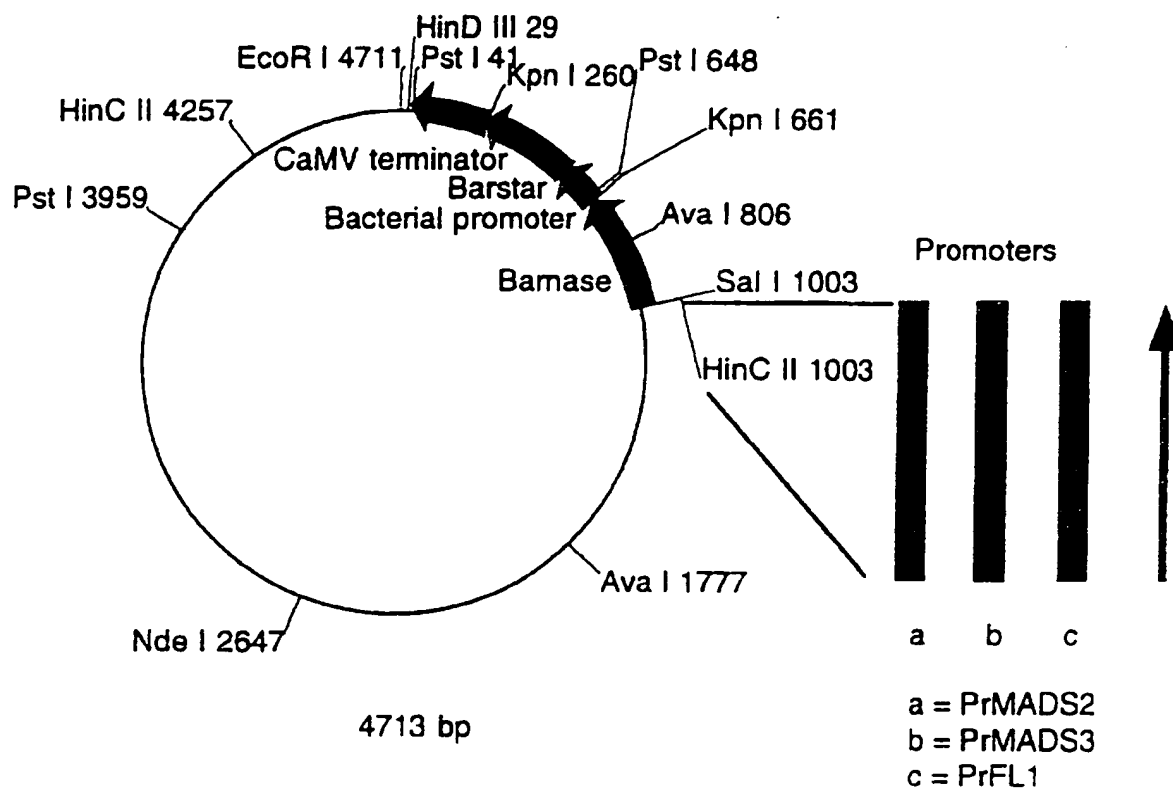


Figure 21

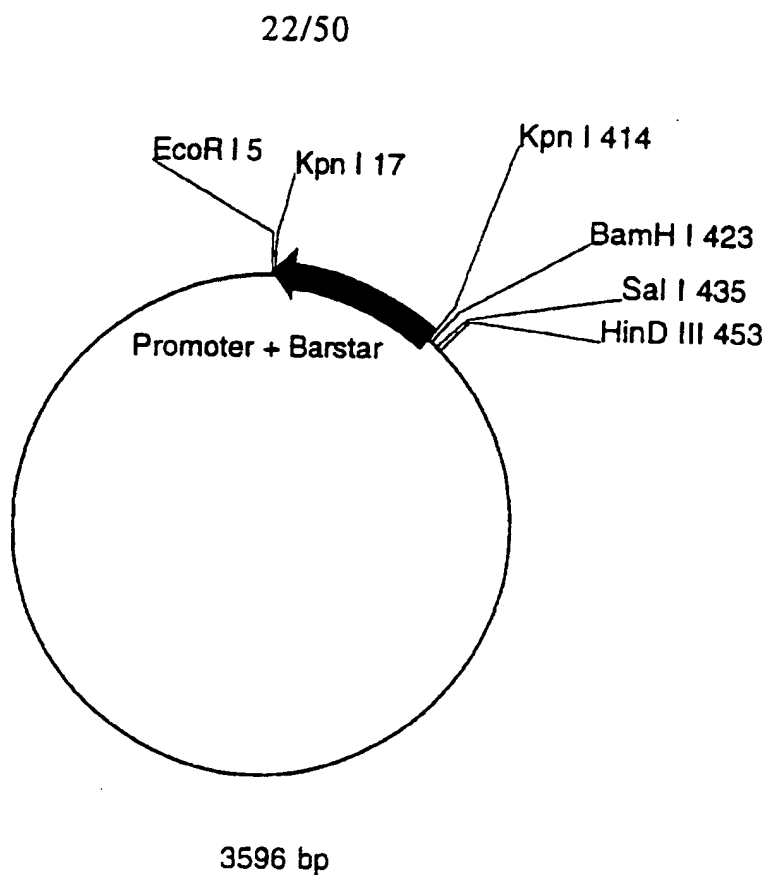


Figure 21a



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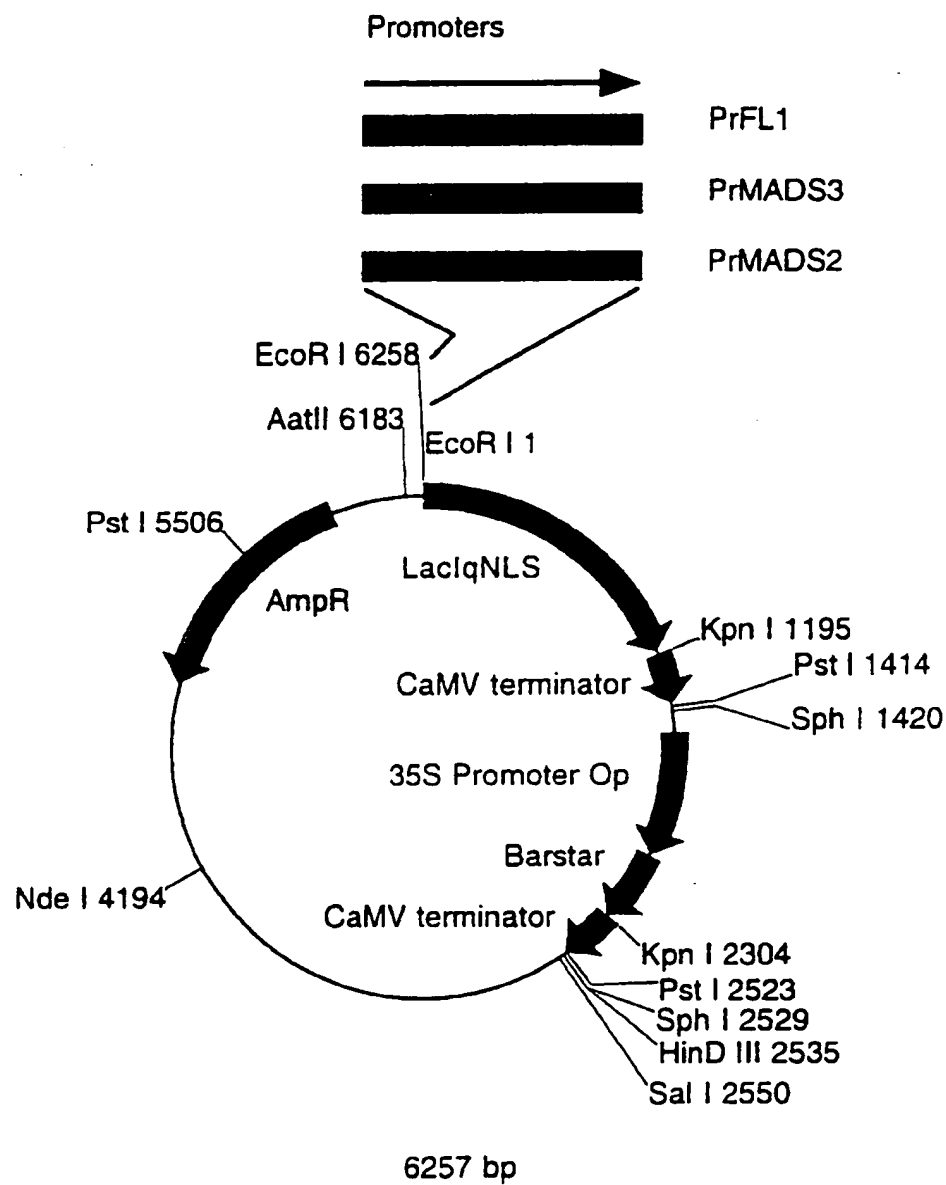


Figure 22

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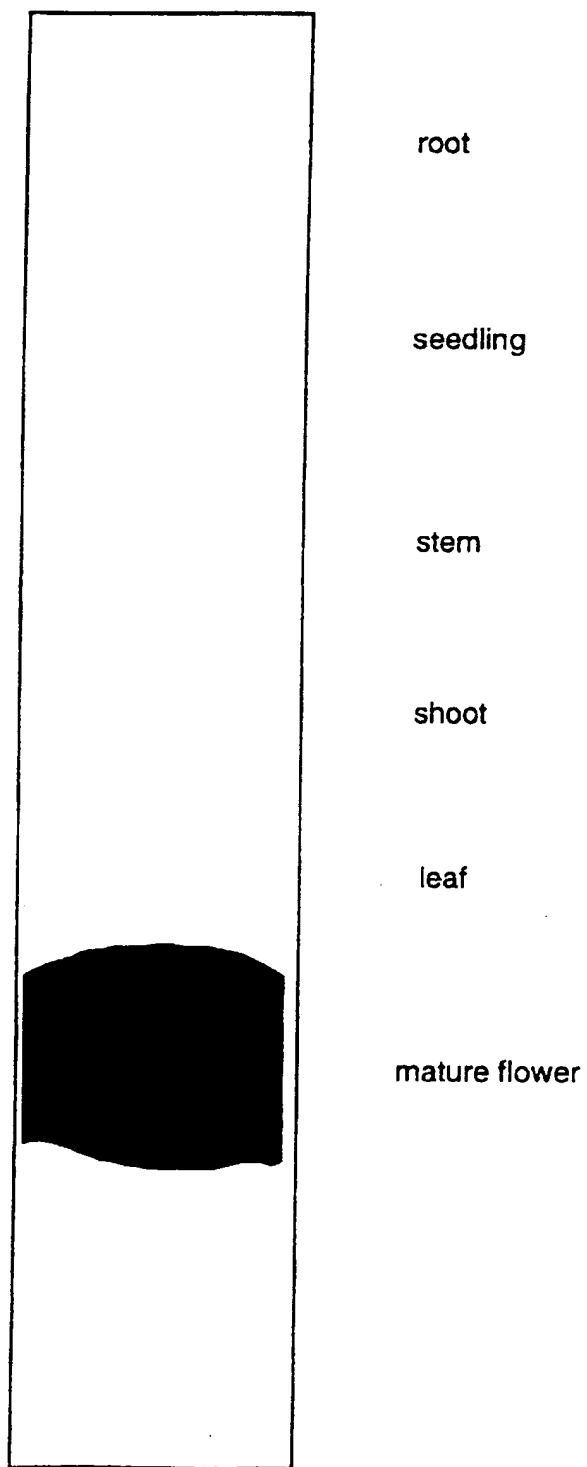


Figure 24

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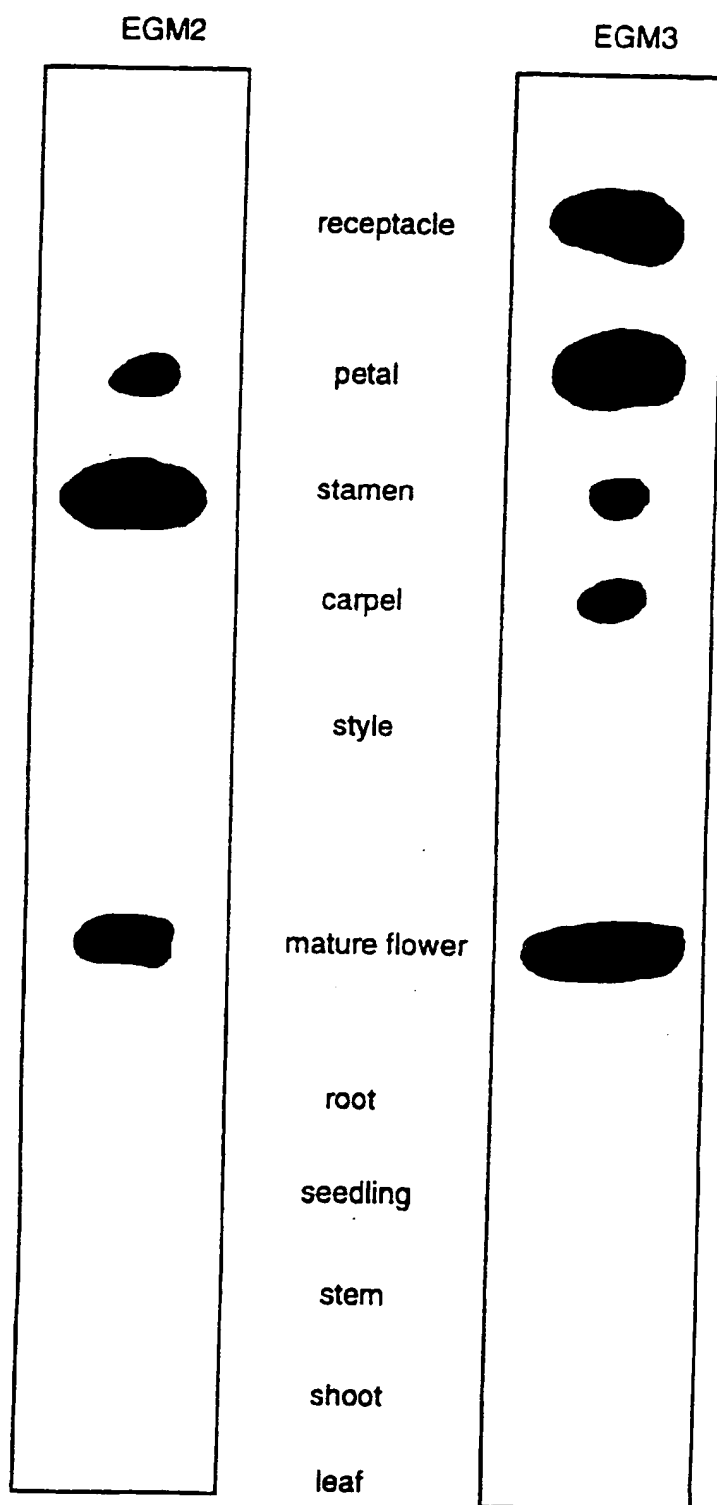


Figure 25

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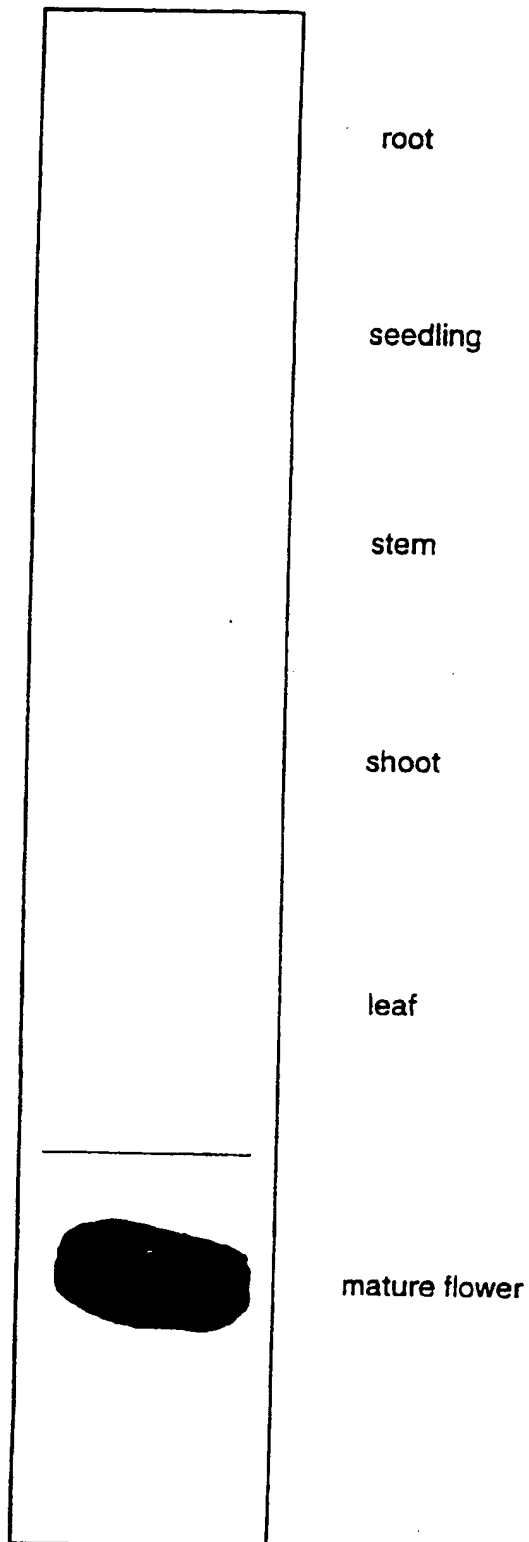


Figure 26

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-373

TTTTACTTGGCATAATACATGCACGAACCACTATGCAATCAACCAATTGGGAAGGTTTTTT  
TTGTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT

-293

TGGGGGGGGGTGTTCTGGTTTATTGGGTGGTTCTGGTCTCTTGACATTGTAATTTCCCCT  
TAAAATTCCGCTTCATGACA

-213

AAAAGTACATAGAGGGGCTACTATCTTTGTTGACTTTTACCGTGTAGAGGGTTCCTAAGA  
GAGAGGGGGGAGGGAAGAGA

-133

GAGACCATGCATAAGTATGGCTAGACACAAGAAAGGTTGCAGAACCGAGAAGAGATCTC  
TTTTGAAGAAGTGAACAAATT

-53

TGTGGGATTGTGGGTGGTGACGAAAACAGCAAAGACAAGAGAAAGGGGAAAGATG

Figure 28

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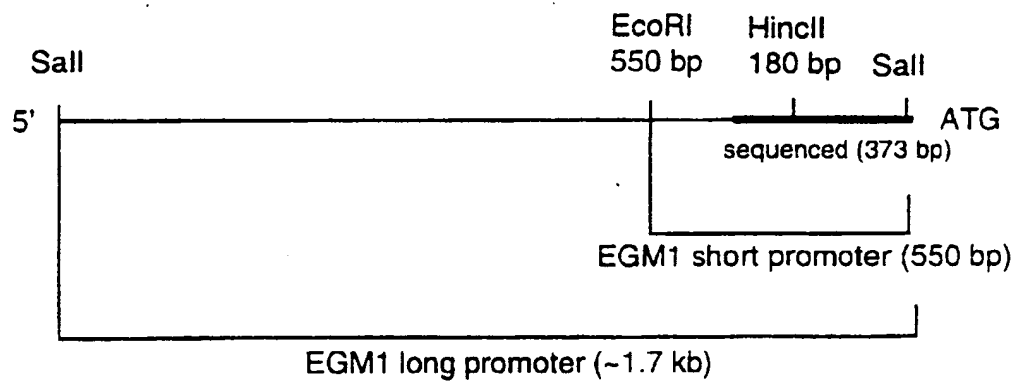


Figure 28A

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-1191	ATGCTCC	CGACCGCCAT	GGCCGCGGGG	ATTTAATACG	GACTCCACTA
-1145	TAGGGAGCTC	GGAATTCCTT	CCTTTGAAA	AAGGGGGAA	AAATCCGTG
-1095	TCGTTTITTC	TTTCGTAAAC	AAAAGTCGA	TGAAATAATA	TGTATTGTTA
-1045	CTATATATAA	AACAAAAGTG	CTCGTGAAAC	ATTGTCAAAT	ACTATAAGGT
-995	ATAGACAGGT	TTATGACTCA	CAATTACGAA	GGGCGCTAAA	AGCCGAGAGG
-945	GAAAAGGTAA	TGCTAGGTAT	AGTACATCTA	GACTATTAAT	TGATATAATA
-895	AGTAAGTGA	TCATGTTCAA	TTTCAGATAA	AAATTTCTAT	GTCACGTTGG
-845	TTTAATATTT	GGAATTTAAT	TATTGGATTT	TATTATAATTA	TTCTTTGTCA
-795	TATTAATTAG	ATTGGTGGAT	ATTGCCGAT	TCTCATGAGA	GGAAAATTGA
-745	TCITTAATTA	ATTTTCAAAA	TACCCATGGG	CAAGGAAATC	ATAAGGAAAA
-695	CTCATCTCTT	CCCCAACACG	CAACGCCAC	ATCGTGCTCT	AGGGTTAAAT
-645	AGAGATGTGA	TCTCCAAATT	TTTTGTCTGG	GAGCAATGCT	AAAGATGCTA
-595	AAAAAGTTTA	GCAAGTAGGA	TGACTAACTT	GAAATAGGGC	AGTCAATAAA
-545	CCAAGTCTAA	CGATCAATTA	CTACATTACA	CGTAATGAGA	AACATTTTGA
-495	GAAAATCTCT	CTATTTATTG	TGGTTACATA	AGTAGCCTAC	CTATTTGTAA
-445	TTATGCAAAT	TAACCTAGGA	CGAGCCATAT	ATGCAGTCGA	CATTCATAAG
-395	GCTTTATAGT	TTGTGCTTCC	GGAAATAGCT	TAGAAAACCA	CATACACTTT
-345	TCATCAAGAC	TAATCTGACA	GTAAAAAAG	GAAAAAGAAA	AGAACACCCAT
-295	CAAGACTAAT	GTAAATGAAA	GAAAACCCCTA	TTACTAATTT	TGAGAGTTTT
-245	CCTTTGTAGA	CCCATCACGT	CATCCATCTA	AAACGATGCA	ATGCACACAA
-195	CTAATGACAA	GCGAACATGT	TAATATACGA	GCAAAACCTAA	CCAGGTTTCC
-145	CCTTCCTTCA	TTAGAGTATA	ATAACTGTTT	CCTTTTCTAC	CTCCTTTTTG
-95	TACCCCTAGCT	CTCGAGCTCC	TTAAGAAAGT	TTGCTCGGCT	CTTAACCAGG
-45	ACTAGAAAAA	ATCAGAGAGA	GAAAGAGAGA	AAGAGAGACA	GAGATATGGG
+5	AAGAGGG				

Figure 29

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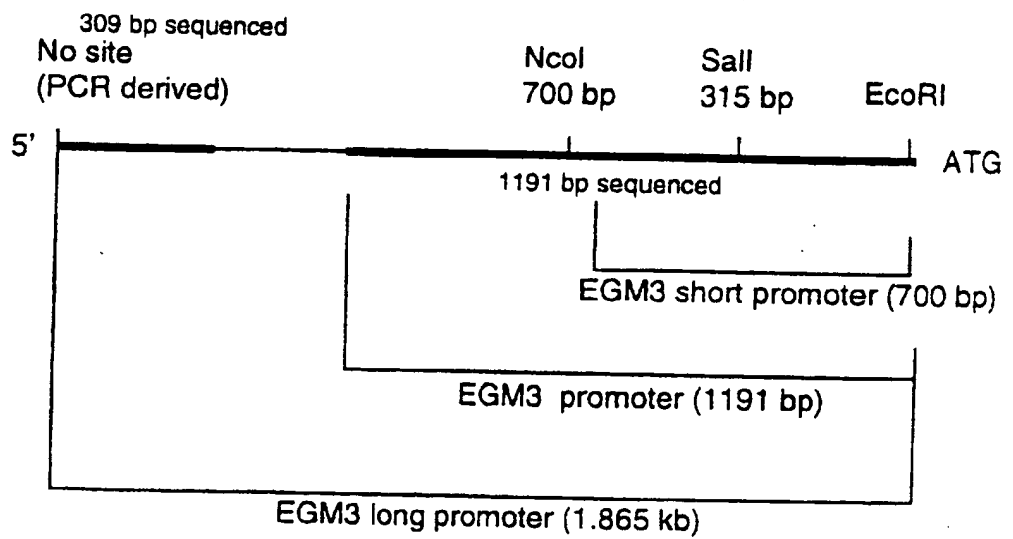


Figure 29A



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-1865

TAGCTCTCGAGCTCCTTAAGAAAGTTTGCTCGGCTCTTAACCAGGACTAG

-1815

AAAAGATCAGGGAGAGAAAGAGAGAAAGAGAGACAGGGATATGGGAAGAG

-1765

GGAAAGTATAGCTGAAGAGGATAGAGAACAAAATCAACAGGCAAGTAACA

-1715

TTTGCGAAGAGAAGAAATGGGCTTCTCAAGAAAGCTTATGAGCTCTCTGT

-1665

TCTCTGTGATGCTGAAATCACTAGTGCGGCCGCTGCAGGTCGACCATAT

-1615

GGGAGAGCTCCCAACGCGTTGGATGCATAGCTTGAGTATTCTATAGTGTC

-1565

ACCTAAATA -1556

Figure 29B

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-940

ATAGAGCAGTACACTTTAAGGGAGCACGCACCCCAATTTGATATAAGGTACAAAGTTTTG  
TTCCAAGATGTGGGTGACAT

-860

CATTAAATGAGATTTACCATCTTTCAACAGGTTCAAAGGGTACCCTGTACTATAAAGCCCA  
CGAAGCTATTTGTATGTTA

-780

AAAAAAAATTCACATAGACTAGGTACGATCGAAAAGCTCATTAAAGGAGCTGCCAACGAAA  
AGTTCACTTTGTTAACCTCT

-700

CCTCTTATCTTATATTCAATAAGAATATGCACATCGGTTGTGATTTGATGCTCAATTGAACT  
TGACATTTGGTTATTGGT

-620

TCTACCCACTTAAACCCTAAGCAAAAAGGCCAGAAATGTGCACACATTATTCATCAAGCC  
GGGTGCCACGTGTCCAGTAA

-540

GACAAACTAAATAAGGAGAAAAATACTGGTAAGGAAGCCTATGTTGTGTATGTAAGATACC  
CAATGATAGTCCGTGGTTTT

-460

GATAAGTTCAAACCTAACATTTGAAAAAGGGACAATATGACGAAGCTGCAGTTAGAACAG  
GAGAACACCCCAACCCGAGA

-380

AAATATCCGGTCGTTTAATATCAATAGCTCACGTGAGTGCAGGATGTCTGAAAAYGACCG  
ATGGTCACACGCGCGTGACA

-300

TGGAAGAGAAGAACCAATAACCAGAAAGCCCTAATAATGAACAGTAGACTTTAGCATGA  
AACCTCTCACCTTTTCTTTTG

-220

TGCCAAGAAAGTCGCAGTTCCCCTTAACCCTAAATGGAATGTTGTGTCTTTACTTCTGTAC  
CTCTCCTTTTTTTCAGCCT

-140

CTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCAGTCTCAGCTATTCAGCTATTCTGCTCCTCAGCTT  
TCATTTGCAAACAAGAGC

-60

AGATAAGGAAGATAATACGAGAGAGACAAGAGAGAAAGAGAAGGCCCGGAAAAAGAA  
AGATCGGTGCAC

(mutated ATG)

Figure 30

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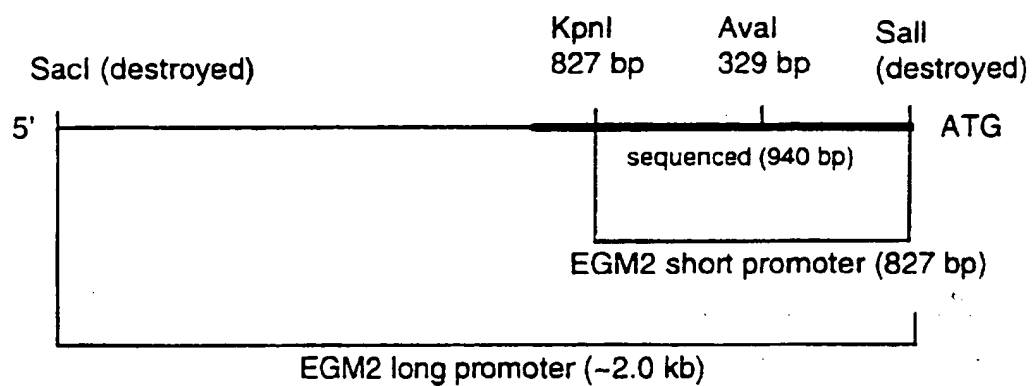


Figure 30A

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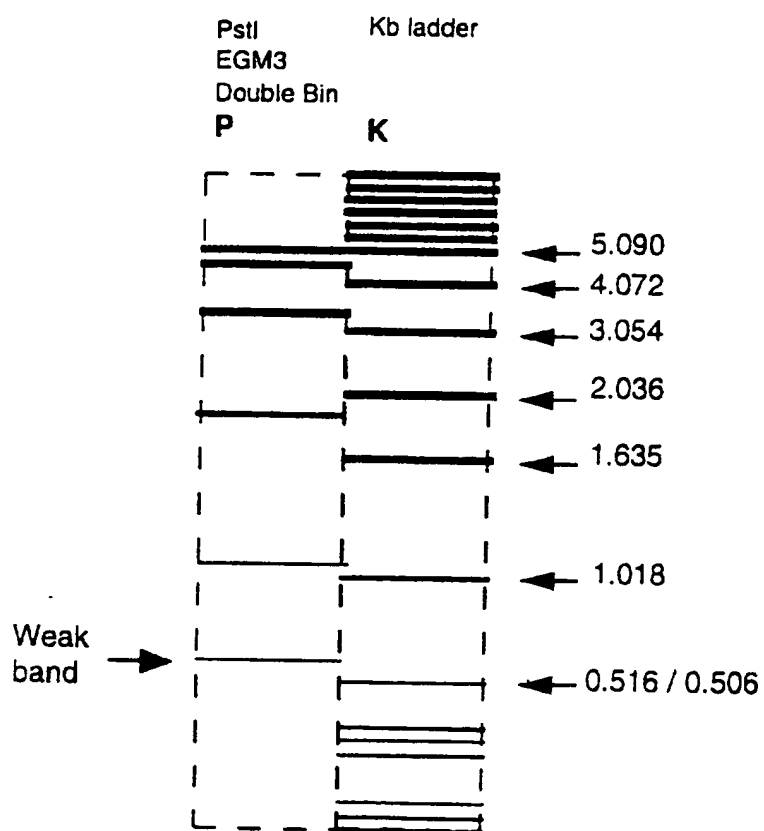


Figure 31

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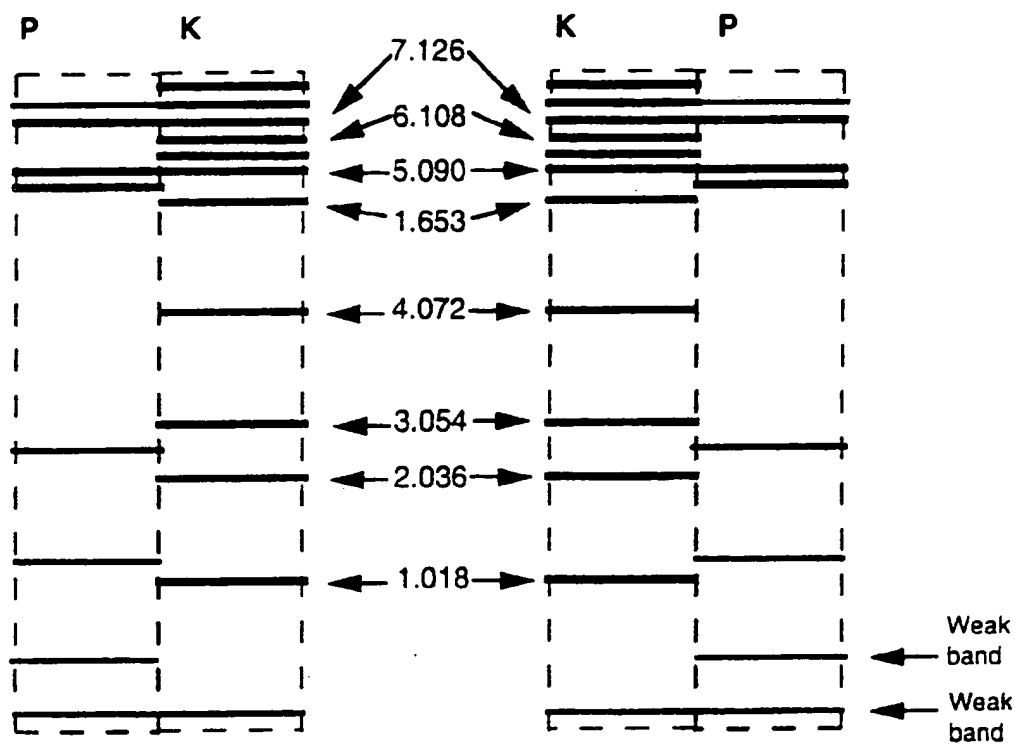


Figure 32

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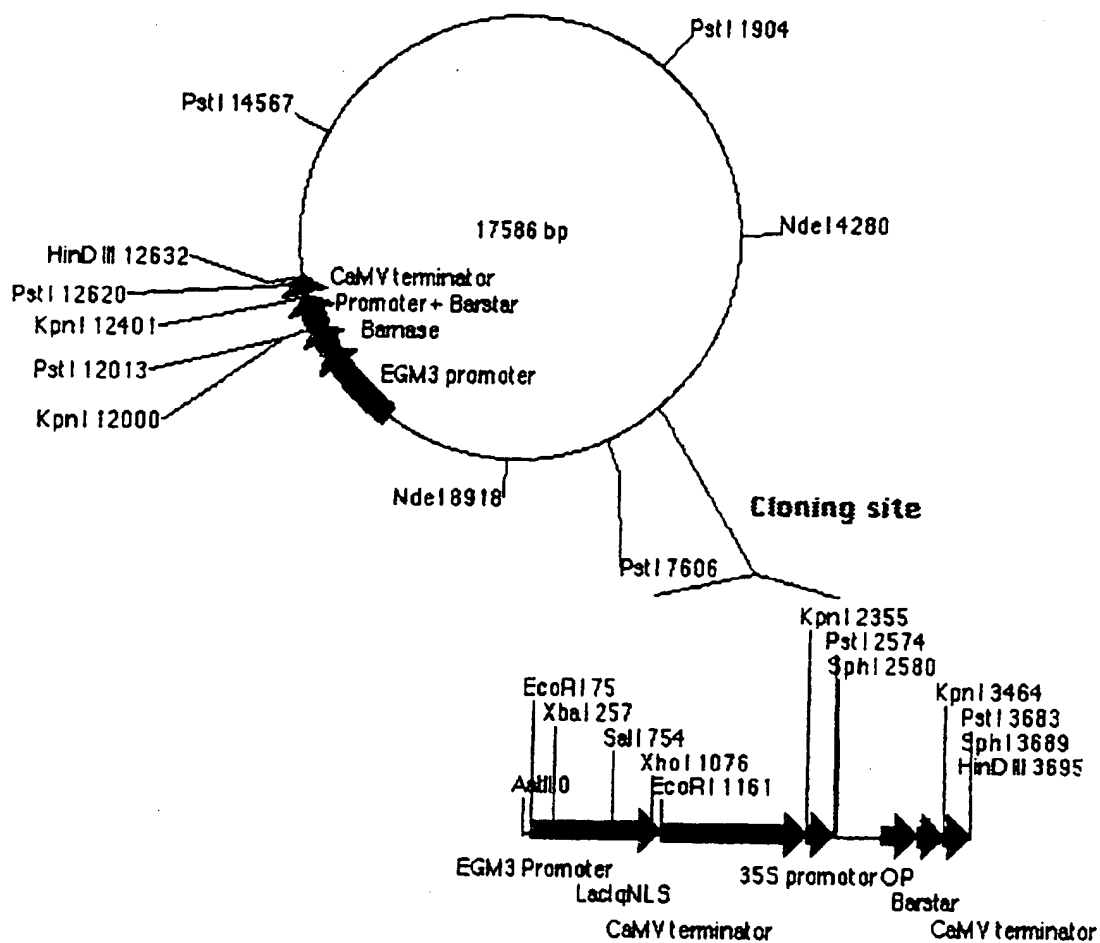


Figure 33

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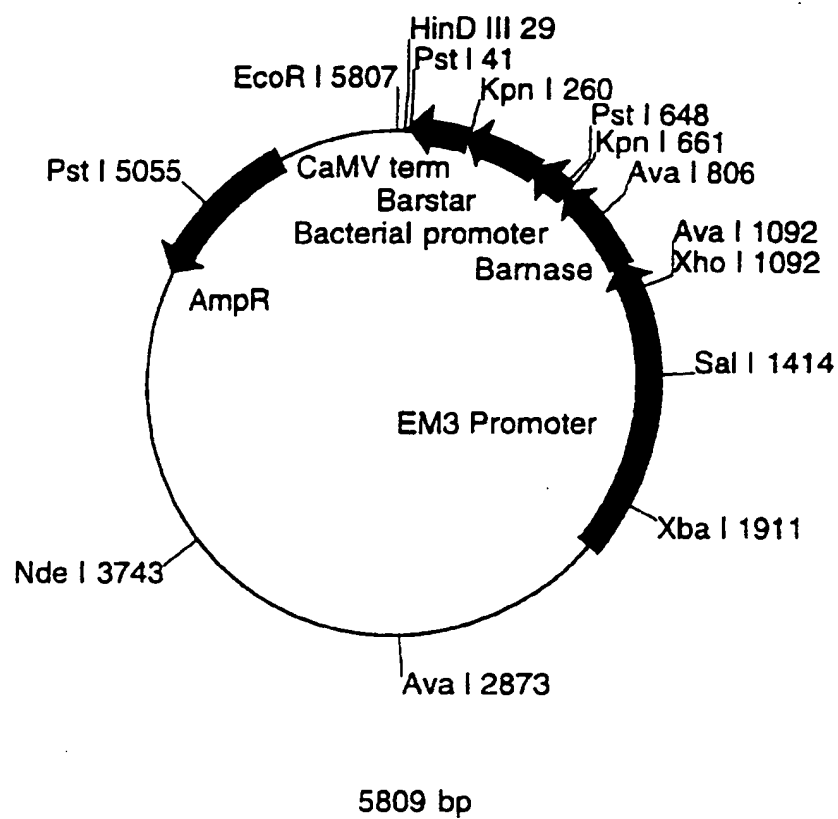


Figure 34

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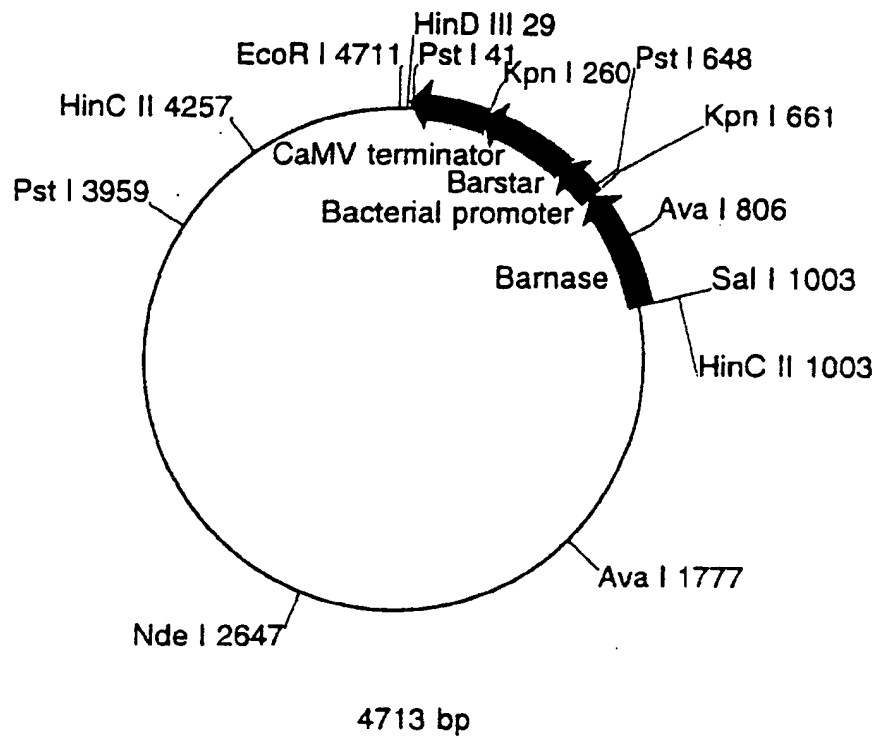


Figure 35



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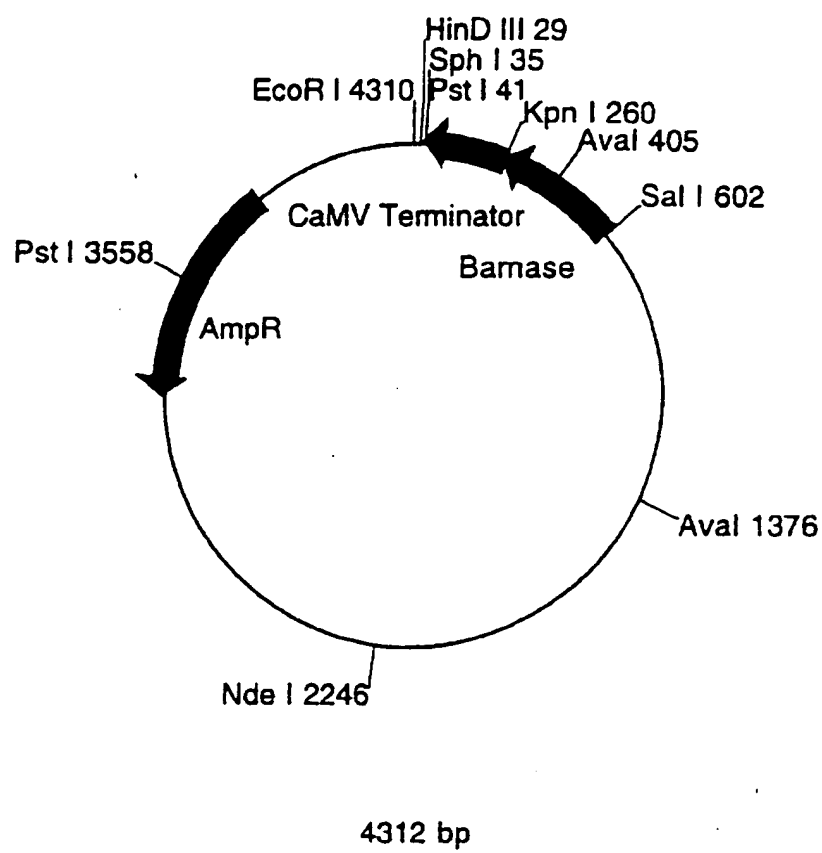


Figure 36

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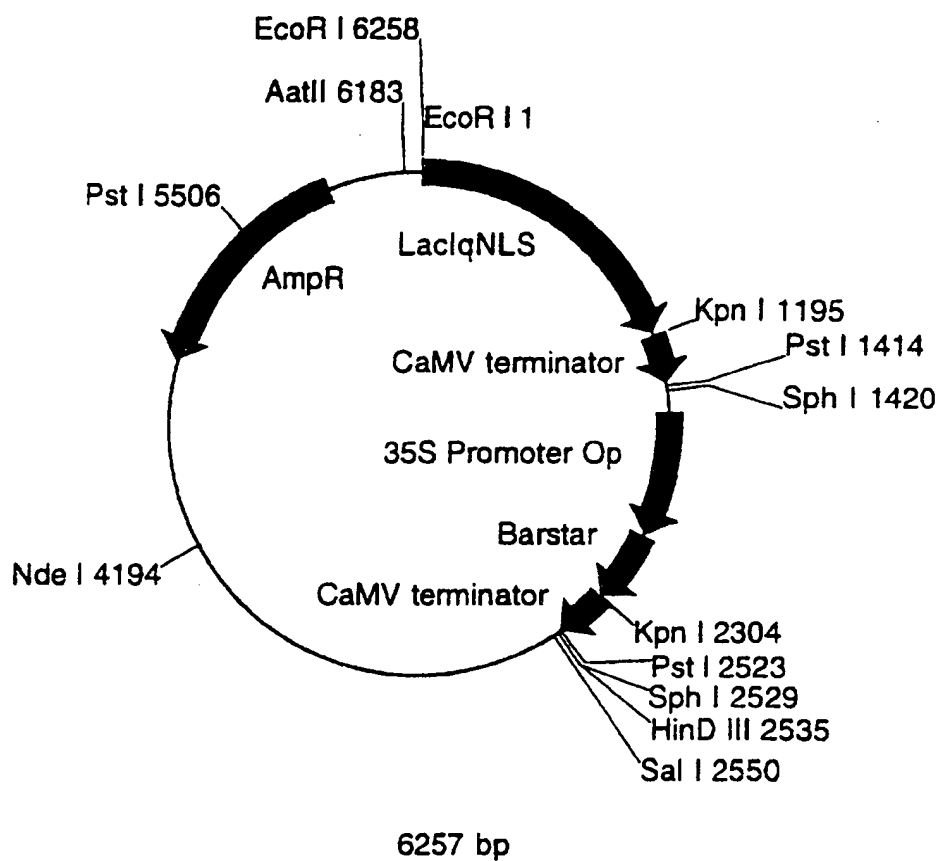


Figure 37

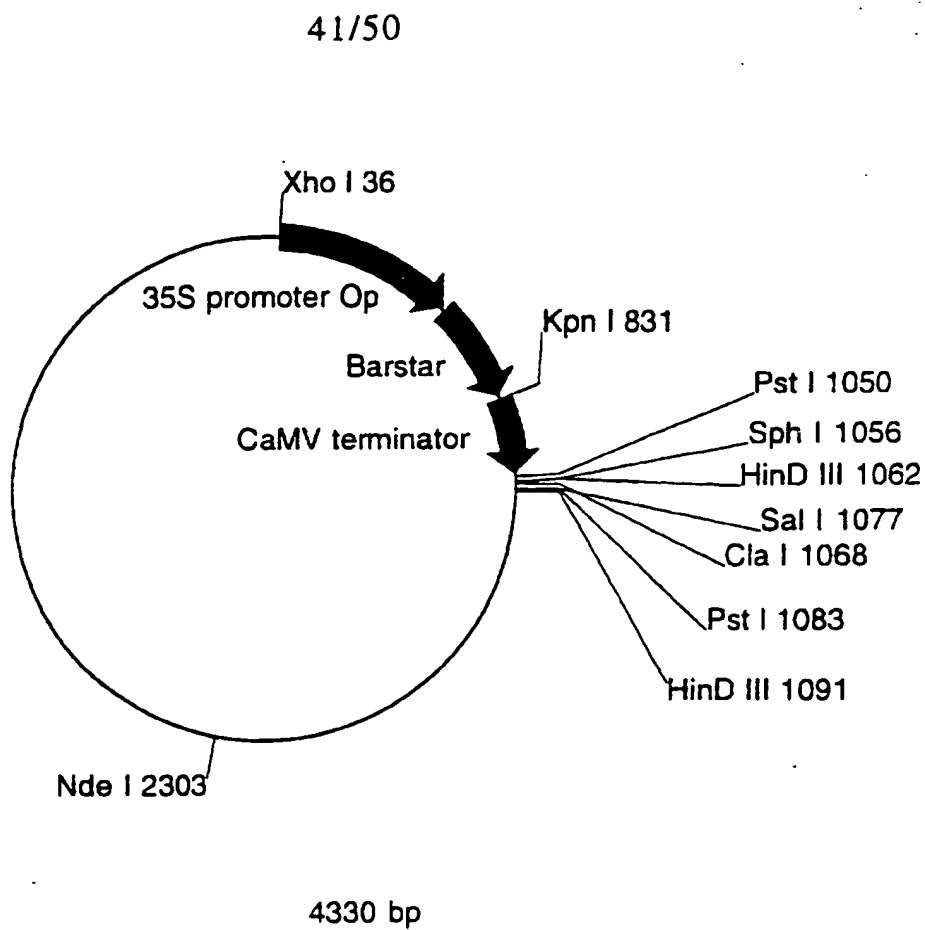


Figure 38

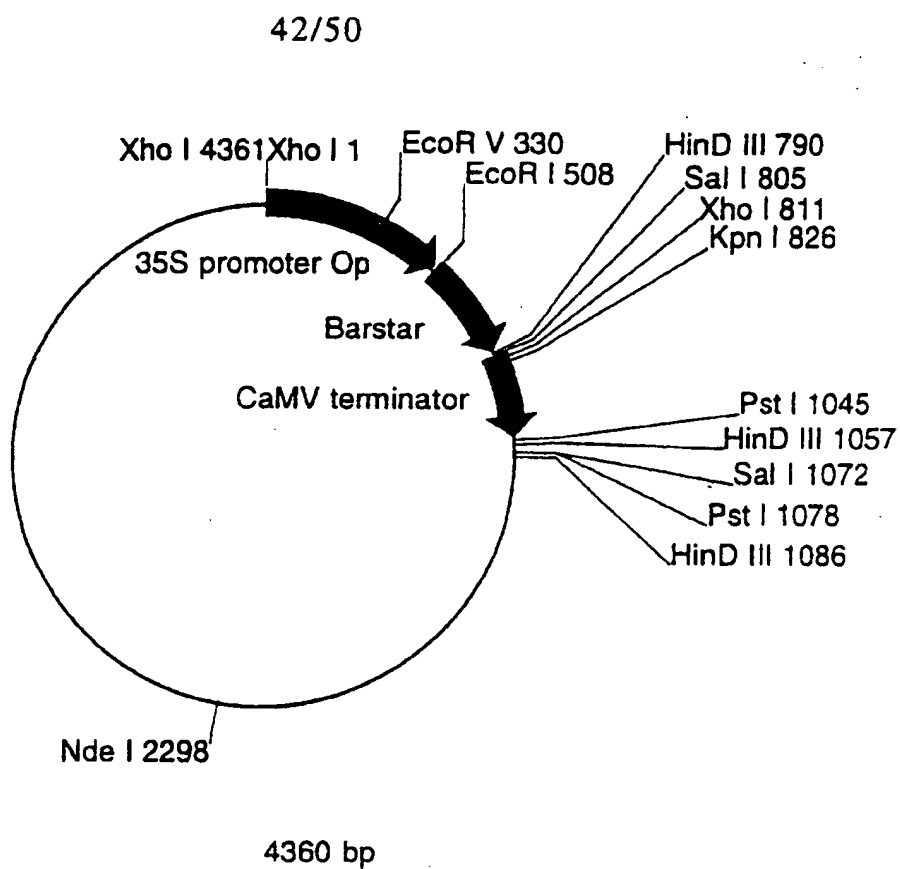


Figure 39

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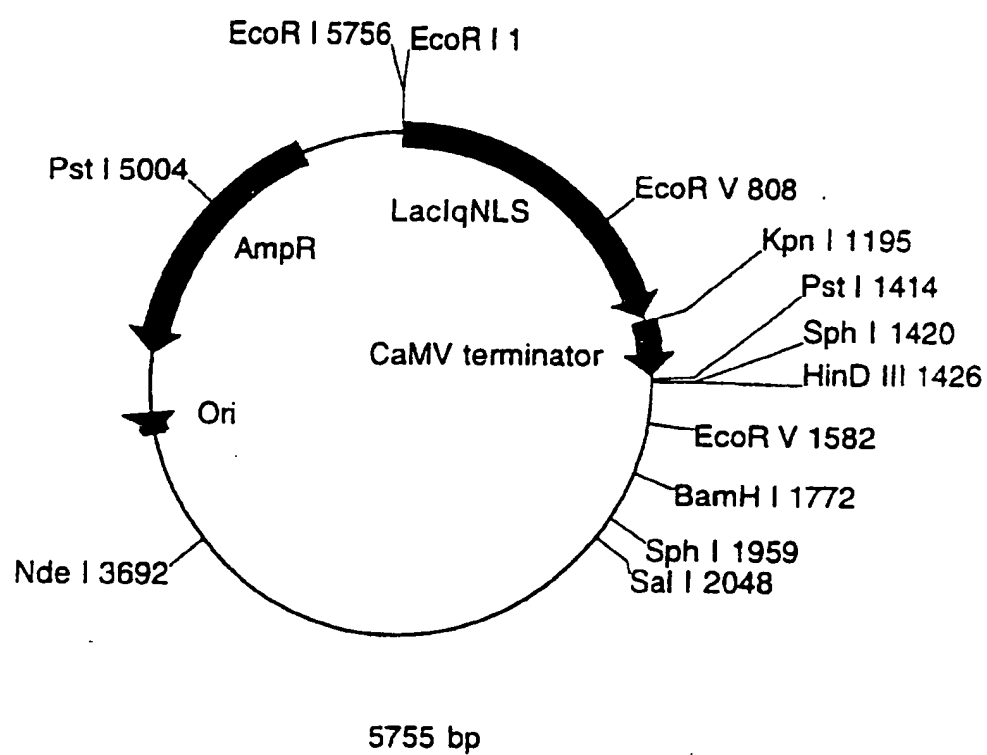


Figure 40

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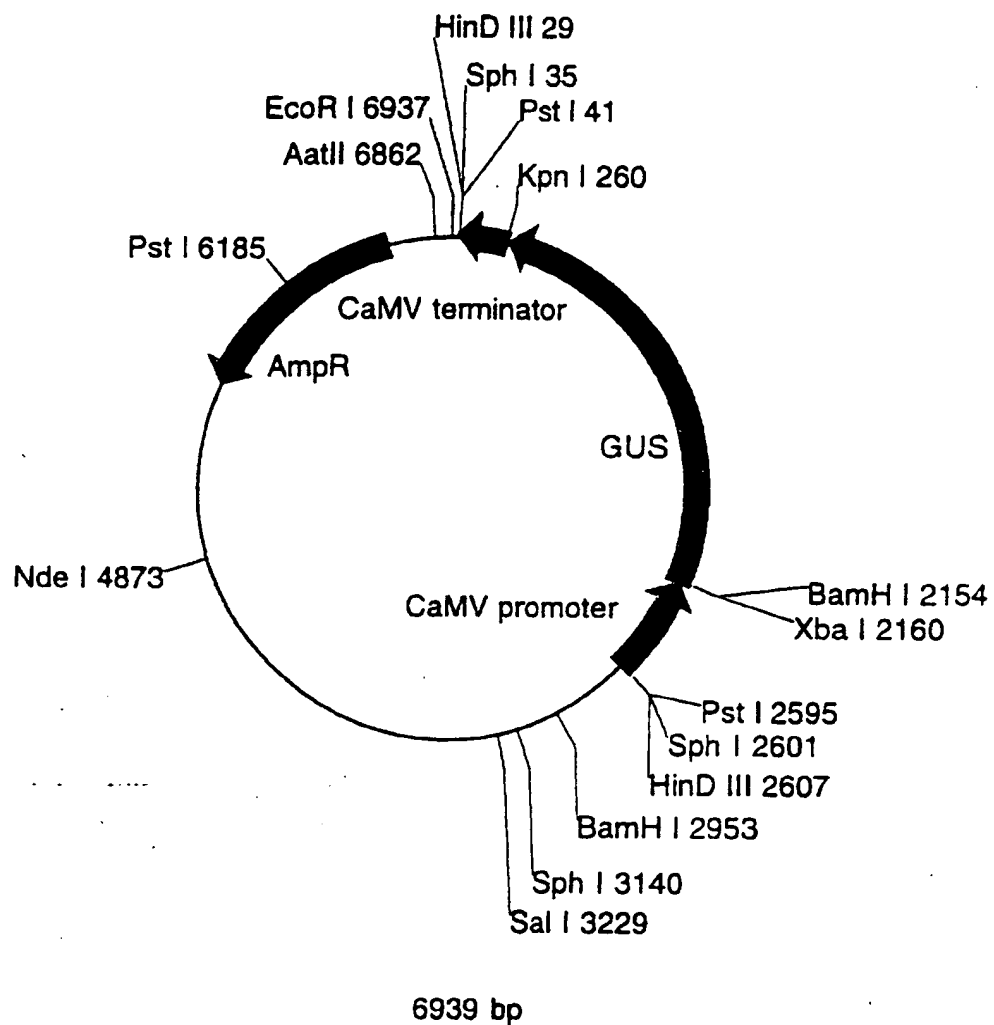


Figure 41

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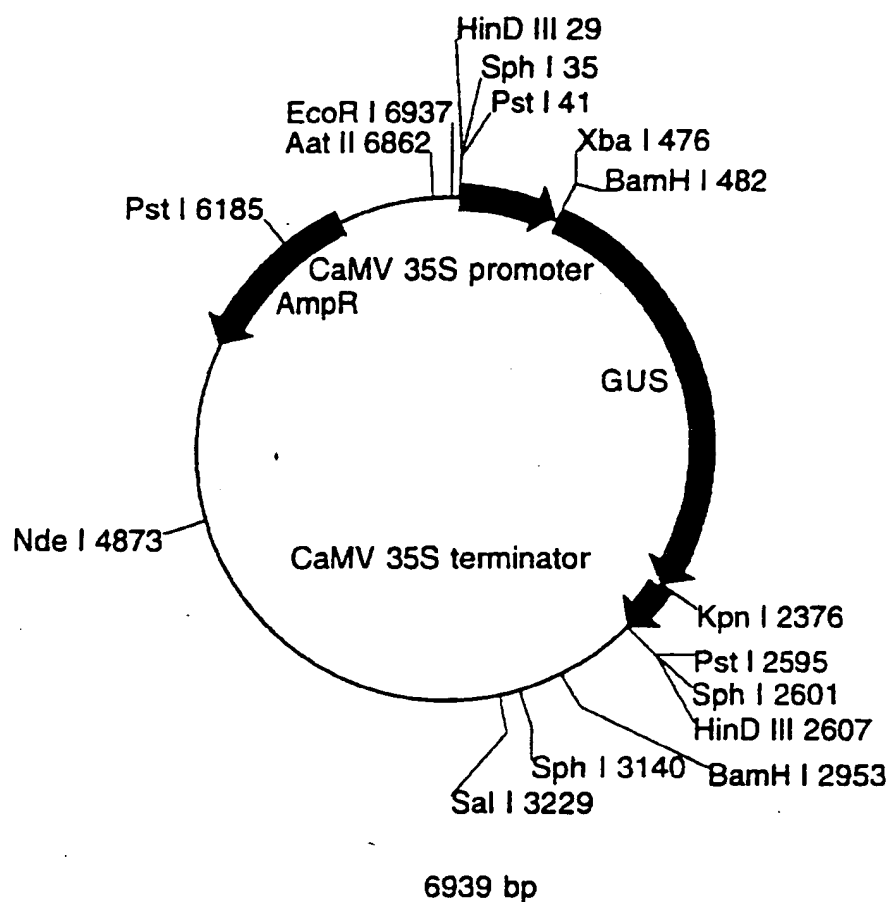


Figure 42

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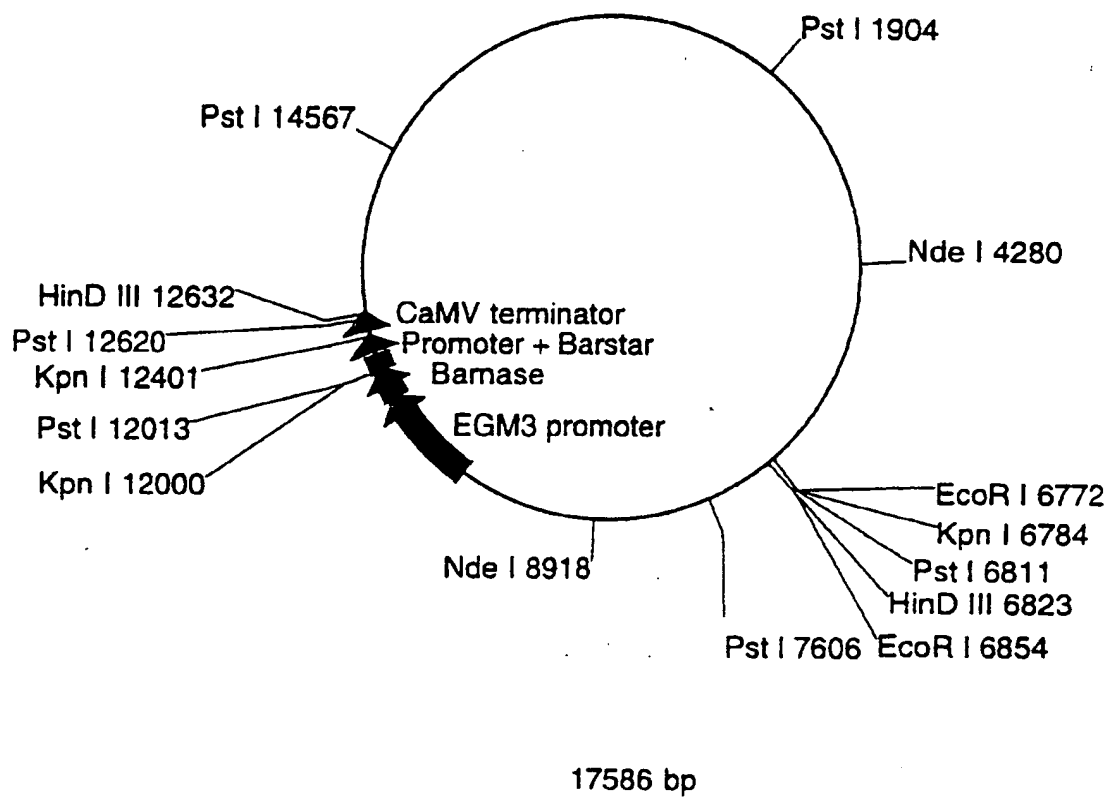


Figure 43



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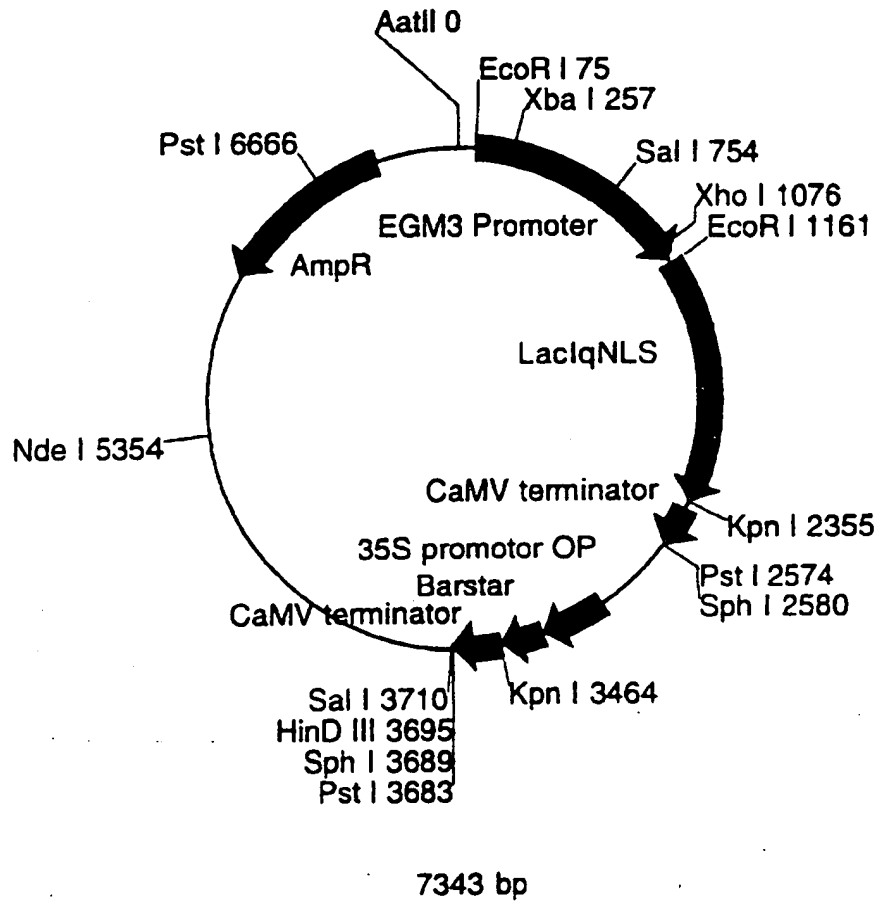


Figure 44

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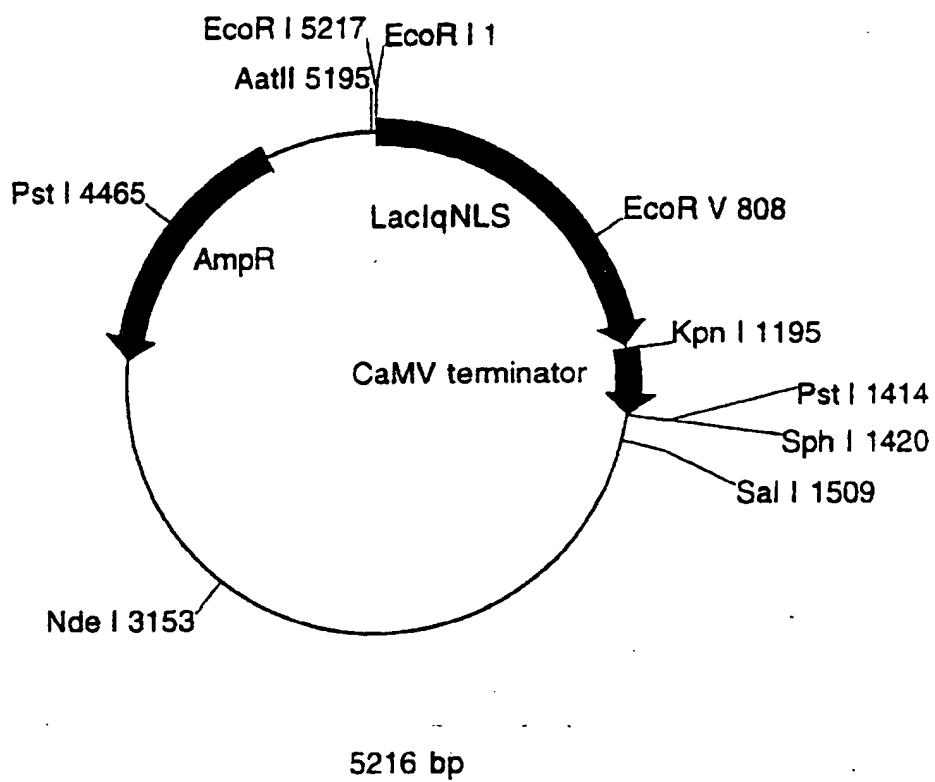


Figure 45

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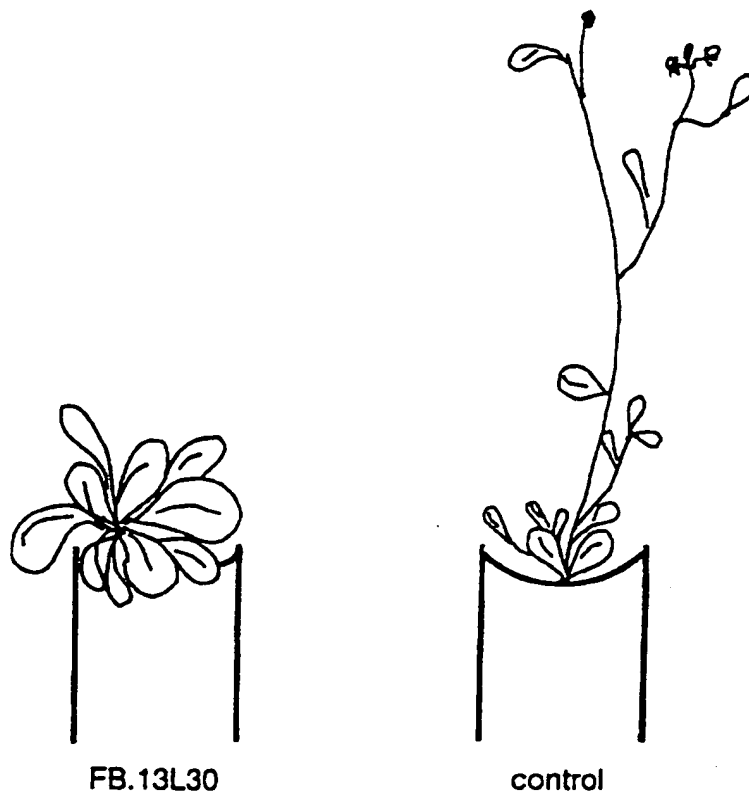


Figure 46

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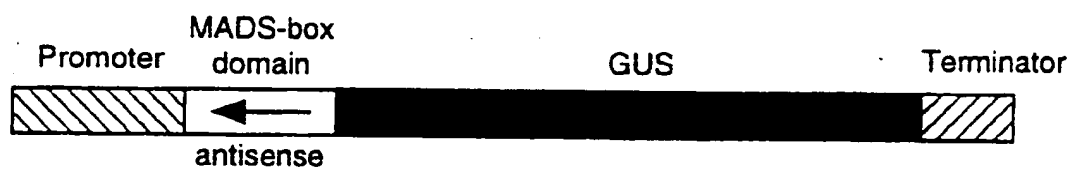
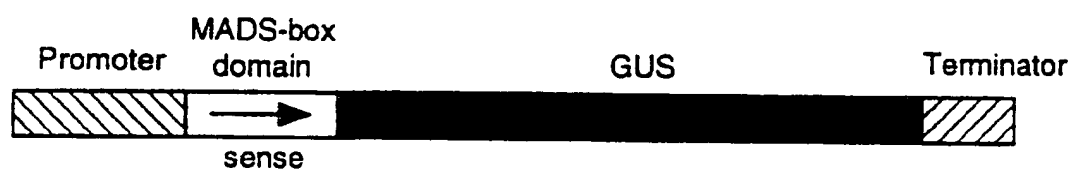
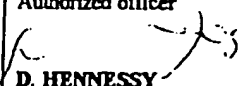


Figure 47

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.  
PCT/AU 97/00625

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
Int Cl <sup>6</sup> : C12N 15/82, 15/84		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC C12N 15/82, 15/84 <b>CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS</b>		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) (SEE ATTACHED)-ATTACHMENT 1		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X, Y	AU 17132/97 A (FORBIO RESEARCH PTY. LTD.) 21 August 1997. See whole document in particular. See plasmids disclosed.	1 to 29
X, Y	AU 86224/91 B (FB INVESTMENTSPTY.LTD) 15 April 1992. See examples and claims.	1 to 29
X, Y	Strauss, S.H. et al. (1995) Genetic engineering of reproductive sterility in forest trees, <i>Molecular Breeding</i> , vol. 1, 5-26.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 31 October 1997		Date of mailing of the international search report <b>10 NOV 1997</b>
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  <b>D. HENNESSY</b> Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2255

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.  
PCT/AU 97/00625

C (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, Y	WO 94/25613 A (CORNELL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC.) 10 November 1994 See whole document	1 to 5
X, Y	WO 94/00582 A (CENTERE FOR PLANT BREEDING AND REPRODUCTION RESEARCH) 6 January 1994. See whole document	1 to 5, 9
P, X, Y	Columbo, L. et al. (1997) downregulation of Ovule-specific MADS BOX genes from Petunia results in maternally controlled defects in seed development, <i>The Plant Cell</i> , vol. 9, 703-715. See the plasmids used in particular.	1 to 29
X, Y	Thorsness, M. K et al. (1993) Genetic ablation of floral cells in arabidopsis, <i>the plant cell</i> , vol. 5, 253-261. See the plasmids used in particular.	1 to 5, 9
X, Y	Kandasamy, M.K. et al (1993) Ablation of papillar cell function in brassica flowers results in the loss of stigma receptivity to pollination. <i>The Plant cell</i> , vol 5, 263-275-See whole articles	

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/AU 97/00625

Box ATTACHMENT 1

Databases consulted: Derwent 'WPAT', CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS -  
FILE: CA  
AGRICOLA

Keywords: PROMOTER, FERTIL., STERIL., BARNASE, BARSTAR, REPRODUCT., OVARY OR  
STAMEN# OR ANTH# OR CARPEL # OR CONE# OR FRUIT: (W) BOD:

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